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THE STORY OF A HOUSE

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John G. Biel May 1, 1947

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REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE This is the story of a house — a house rich in historical value beyond the realizations of even its nearest neighbors — a house, unique and alone in its relation to the periods of history it embrases.

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The history of this house is so interwoven with the lives of the people of early Terre Haute and so prominent in the events which occurred them, that it is a vertiable diamond whose facets reflect every aspect of its contemporary life and times. If this story seems rambling, it is because there are so many ramifications to it, of necessity; it is because this house was the hub of the wheel of life and progress of early Terre Haute.

On October 3, 1811, with an Army of some 900 men, General William
Henry Harrison moved out of the old Fort at Vincennes and reached the Wea
Village which was at that time, where Terre Haute now stands. Just North of
this little Indian Village he built the famous Fort Harrison. Soon after
the decisive battle with Tecumseh, upon which so much of the history of the
entire Horthwest Territory is based, this portion of Indiana was opened to
the eager coming of the settlors. Fainally, Harrison's purchase from the
Indians was opened for sale — beginning on the 2nd Monday in September,
1616, — and it was that first day, on the 13th of the month, that William
Harlow purchased the land on which now stands the house you are to hear about.

william Harlow was a land buyer — as they called them in those days — and certainly did not intend to do anything with this land, except sell it to someone else, to make a profit.

reserved by the Government, or located by Canadian claimants, were sold at auction in September 1816. A very large tract of land of the second and third quality — much of which was very fertile and not much different from what was considered as the choice land — was left over after the auction and could be purchased for an entry fee of Two Dollars an acre, payable in

This is the story of a house — a butse missers — a house, unique and the realisations of even its mearest neighbors — a house, unique and alone in its relation to the periods of history it embraces.

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1815, — and it was not first day, on the 13th of the month, that William latter was remote the land as which now examine the month, that William latter day, on the 13th of the month, that William latter was not the land as which now examine the bounce to hear shoat.

Vilian Hariov was a land imper - as they called thom in these days - and certainly did not insend to do smything with this land, except sell it to someone else, to make a profit.

All of the cest lands near the Mahash Miver, which had not nearered by the Government, or looseed by Genedian element, nere sold at suction in September 1516. A ver large tract of land of the escond and that out to made of which was very entite and not much different from the very was left over after the another on and cold out for a entry fee of the land or at a some offer the another of an entry fee of the latter an an eero, make in

installments over a period of four years — one fourth within two years and the remainder in two equal annual payments. Eight percent interest was added to all delinquent payments but eight percent discount was also allowed for prempt payment. Thus lands paid for at the time of entry only cost one dollar and eight three cents an acre. Think of the real estate values in Terre Haute today and then consider that the town's ploneers purchased it for one dollar and eighty three cents an acre!

In order to help out those persons who could not make a payment in full — or who wished to secure a tract of land while they were undecided as to a place to settle permanently — an arrangement was made whereby lands could be entered for a certain number of days. This privilege was greatly abused however, since lands were entered for the sum of Sixteen Dollars — which was one twentieth of the price — and for this Sixteen Dollars the holder had the right to remove, within forty days, every valuable timber tree from the premises; and if no other purchaser appeared within that time, the term could be lengthened to minety days. During the winter of 1817 to 1818 the average price of prairie lands about here was from five to ten dollars and the average price of woodlends was from two to five dollars. This credit system of purchase was abolished July 20th, 1820 and the minimum price reduced to one dollar and a quarter an acre.

Harlow did sell his land to a George W. Devees and assigned his purchase rights to him. Mr. Devees obtained a patent from the United States for this land — the name applied to a deed from the Government — signed by James Monroe, the then President, on September 22, 1823, Just at that time, Terre Haute was emerging on what could be called the second phase of its growth.

There is no official record of what is now Vigo County, Indiana
from the time of the coming of the first settlors until about 1816. From 1812
to 1815 -- the time of War -- there were few, if any, immigrants who came this way.

install sould count a period of Your years — one fourth within two years and the remainder in two equal amount payments. Think yereant interest was added to still delineated payments but sight percent discount was also allowed to:

**County twinters of the fact for an the time of entry only cost one dollar and of sht three costs as agre. Think of the real satisfic values in facts fact that the county and of the three costs as agre. Think of the processe purchased it.

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to 1819 - the time of man - there were few if may, itsilizenth who came this way.

The pursuits of peace, — elearing lands, making farms and raising crops — were interrupted by the War between England and America. This very locality was the east of the War, as the English had gone among the Indians hereabouts using every inducement they could think of to bribe them to raise their arms and strike down the Americans who were trying to settle in this section.

It was only five years before the construction on this house was started, that Vigo County was formed. It was only six years before the construction on this house was started that Indiana became a state of the Union — in 1816.

included some of the present Parke County and some of the present Putnam

County. It was not until 1821 — just two years before this house was built

that Putnam County and Parke County were carved out, which action remapped

Vigo County considerably. For years there existed grave dubt as to the actual

boundries of Vigo County, the controversy not being legally straightened out

until much, much later — 1852, for the first time and again in 1873. In

1790 the region now known as Indiana and Michigan was organized into a county

and named Knox in honor of General Knox. Other counties were organized from

time to time from this territory until it was reduced to a narrow tract of

land extending from the southern to the northern boundaries of the State.

In 1817 a part of Knox County was organized into a county called Sullivan and

in 1818 a portion of Sullivan County was carved out and organized into a

separate county and named in honor of Colonel Francis Vigo.

Scattered over the county at that time, and even in the little town, was many a log cabin whose small square windows might be of glass or oiled paper, and whose wooden latch — raised with a leather thong — let one into a room with puncheon floor. The roof above was of long oak shingles herm out with an ax, the chinks in the legs were filled with clay or clay and stones and the large fireplace was lined with stones. The chinney outside was built up

per control of the her between England, and America. This very locality of the the bar, as the faller had come spans the interestents with think every force and the think every force and the think of the test of the test of the think every find the test of test of the t

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We many a leg cabin whose small quere and the of glass or also defect whose women lated — rated with a leather thong — let one into a room with machine them. The room with machine them out the legs mere filled this city or clay and stones and the large fine him to legs mere filled this city or clay and stones and the large fineshape was limed with stones. The change outgids who built to

with lathe and clay, and inside its maple mouth swung an iron pot from a crane.

At one side was a spinning wheel or loom, sometimes both. For clothes and hat racks, many a house had the antiers of a der killed by the settler. On page in the wall or in a corner, was the long rifle, with flint lock, because percussion caps did not come into general use until after the Nexican War.

Other articles were there that would cause us today to wonder at their use; the sieve of deerskin punched full of holes; the iron kettles for rendering lard in winter and for boiling maple sap in the spring; the ash barrel through which percolated the water to come out as lye for making soap or to steep the corn for hominy — all these homely domestic articles could be seen at any of the homes on the Vigo County prairie and in the little town of Terre Haute when this bouse was first started. There were, of course, the threshing floors in the barns or in the open where the men beat out the grain with flails or where horses or oxen welked round and round in a circle treading the seed from the straw.

Candles were burned, made by the women of the house and smoky-lard-oil lamps were a luxury. The people were boots that even a boot jack would hardly pull off. In the high crowns of the men's hats, they carried their letters, papers and handkerchiefs. Nearly every man owned a pair of saddle bags to carry behind him and stout leggings coming to his knees to protect him from the brush, when he rode horseback on his journeys over the primitive highways.

Droves of fat hogs could be seen weddling through the streets from early winter until late spring. The farmer wives brought in rolls of Kentucky jeans and linseys, made on their spinning wheels and looms. Common articles of merchandise at the stores were indigo, madder and copperas, which dyestuffs account for the blue and butternut jeans. Dyes were also made from the hulls of walnuts, butternuts, and maple bark and from these the linseys and flammels were given the colors which prevailed troughout this pioneer community. The cotton chain, used in weaving cloth and carpet, was brught in the stores but

the letter and clay, and indice to ample nouth among an iron pot from a creat to an odder we a spinning wheel or lows, constinst both. For clothes and hat radio, can a boust but the satisfarm of a der this of the nottler. On twice the wall or in a corner, was the leng midle, with filter look, because parenceles amps did not same late control who would effect the Moriona War.

Other articles were there where could count us today to wonder at their west their wast the irea weather for rendering lard in winter and for tolling maple map in the arm, the articles for being the treath of the water to come out at the reliang search to area at eng of the bones on the Vigo Court prairie and in the little town if form Haute when this bones are direct started. There and in the little town through flower in the bases or in the sparted. There are not course, the winter that bases or in the open where the new heat the sparted with the bases or in the open where the new heat out the sparte the search and reduct in a chrois treather.

Cedates were a luming the people for took took over a book anothered being land; the people for took took over a book fack would hardly pull off; In the high erooms of the nem's land, they correled their letters. People to the people to the fact and right over the people to the free to the face the free took of the four when he rade borreback of his lourneys over the printitive highways.

Proves of fat bogs could be seen washing through the strengs from extends from early wister watth later spring. The former wises brought in rells of Mentucky leans and through, ands on their spinsing wheels and leans. Dosmon articles of murchandise at the stores were indigo, madder and copperes, thish describe the coount for the in and hatternut jeams. These were also ands from the halls walked walked from these the itsespe and financial walked and results and represent the throughout this pioneer community. The

otherwise these articles were entirely homemade,

hewn instead of being left round and additional rooms was added to the houses.

The settlers were becoming more permanent. Stores and trading stations were springing up; shipments of pork and grain were made down the river to New Orleans on boats built right here for that purpose, the boats being later sold at their destination for lumber.

Our house is historically significant to Terre Hauto and Vigo County as it marks, definitely, the beginning of the real building and development of the city.

On October 25th, 1816 the plat of the original town of Terre Haute was recorded by the original proprietors, who had formed a company to acquire the land on which Terre Haute now stands from Joseph Kitchell. He entered the land - comprising 416 } acres - on September 13th, 1816, the same day as the land us entered on which the house of our storey stands. The original town of Terre Haute was bounded on the north by Eagle Street, on the East by Fifth Street, on the South by Swan Street and on the West by Water Street. The town, then encompassed thirty five blocks, one of which was reserved for the public square, one fourth of another reserved for a Church and one fourth of another for a Seminary. The blocks were divided into 268 lots, each 141 feet 2 inches in depth and 74 feet 7 inches fronters except four which were 66 feet and 7 inches frontage. The streets were laid out sixty five feet wide, except Water, First, Second, Wabash and Thio which were made 81 feet 6; inches wide and Third or Market Street which was made 99 fast and 5 inches wide. The original plat of the town was recorded in Knox County -- At Vincennes -- as there was no County Covernment set up here and no Recorders Office in which to record the plat. It appears in Knox County Deed Record A, Vol. 1, page 457. Later, on March 24th, 1819, after the County Government was established here it was recorded in Vigo County and appears in Vigo County Deed Record Vol. 1, page 94.

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An the second sheet of Terre Haute's groun that the lage were her thetered and added to the butters. Her thetered of notes parement, Stores and that the name stations were settled to a point of point one grain ware put a deep the river to see all that a site to see the coats with there for her or hat are settle being later.

Our house As theterically significant degree Same and Vigo County at the marks, definitely, the beginning of the rest building and development at the city.

On October 25th, 1815 the plat of the original topp of Teure Haute extense at margice a bashot had adv a retelegent Lastylve out and believes take two land on which I am a make now stands from owerd Mitchell. He entered the land - comprehens Ald y norms - on September 13th, 1816, the some day on the to me on tend on which the house of our stores stands. The ordered town of Terre Haute was hounded on the north by male Street, on the East by Fifth direct, on the South by Swan Street on the Yest or later Street, The town. the encourages the black five blocks, one of which was reserved for the public redicine to direct one fourth a tol berreser rentons to direct one pranch or a Sentency. The checks were divided into 268 lots, each lai feet 2 inches in depth and 74 feet 7 inches frombege except four which were his feet and 7 inches frontage. The street ways laid out casty five feet wide, except Water, Mirot, Second, whenh and Oldo which were mede il feet by Anches wide and Third or Market Street white was sude 99 feet and state. The original place of the total was recorded in Maca County -- At Vincanaes -- as there was no County Coversment set up here and no Recorders Office in which to recent the plat. It appears in them County Bend Hecond As Vol. 1, page 47% Later, de March atth, 1819, after he County Covernment was established nere it was recorded to Vigo doucky and appears in Vigo County Deed Booned Vel, 1, page 94. At the time our house was built, it was a long way out of town — being built at what is now the corner of light and Poplar Street. Our house was the first stone house to be built in this vicinity. It was tarted in 1823 but was not completed until 1826.

There were only about fifty houses in the town when our house was

first built — most of them of hewn logs but many of them still the eld

original one room, round log, dirt floor, windowless cabin we know so well

as belonging to the early pioneer. The Western Register and forre Haute

Advertiser — Terre Haute's first newspaper — said in 1823 — the year our

house was started — that there were fifteen business houses in this town of

fifty buildings. This certainly indicated that a large population resided

about the town and in the country, because the fifty houses in the town

would not, by themselves, support fifteen businesses.

Foplar and First streets. This is variously attributed to John Harle and to Lucius Scott. Whoever had it, we do have recorded that the stock consisted of sugar, coffee, salt and whiskey, a few bolts of calice, a small stock of unbleached muslin and a few trinkets for the Indian trade. George Hussey started the next store on Mainut Street between First Street and Mater Street and George W. Dewees — the man who built our house — later started a store on the second let south of Ohio Street on the West Side of Second Street. His store was a one room, round leg building with a one storey frame building behind it where he and his family lived until they moved to our house. He is listed in the newspaper in 1823 as *G. W. Devees, cash, corn or beeswax*.

At the seutheast corner of Second and Walnut was Robert Brasher's home and batter shep. On two corners of Second and Peplar were two large hewn log houses. Between First and Second Street on either Swan or Cak was the log jail.

I. Gilman and was also the office of the first pork packing business, which was

At the time our house was brilt, it was a long way out of team — being built at what is now the common of lighth and Poplar Street. Our house was the fine the fine at the built in onle wishnitz. It was marked in large but was not sensieted until 1826.

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The first dry gods and grocery store was opered to the countr of replan and First streets. This is variously attributed to John Sarie and to Inclus Scott. Shower bed it, we do have recorded that the shoot consisted of sugar, coffee, salt and whistey, a few holts of calico, a small stock of unblescent musics and a few tribusets for the Indian trade. Guerge Russey started the near store on Edinut Street between Miret Street and Later Guerge Russey and George W. Devoce — the was wis built our house — later otarted a store on the scool let south of Onlo Street on the West Side of Scool Street. He chare was a one room, round less building with a one story frame building behind it where he end his Sandly Mived until they moved to our house. He is taked in the sewepaper in 1823 as "G. h. Devoce, cash, carm or beaswar".

At the southeast corner of Second and Walnut was Tobert Brasher's home and hetter whee, the two large have less houses. Setween First and fedged Street on either fram or Onk was the log full.

To dilman and was also the effice of the first pork packing business, which was

a big business in Terre Haute in those days. It was built at First and Mulberry Street. John Britton built a brick house at First and Poplar in 1825 and George W. Buole built one at Main and First sometime later. The first brick school was built at First and Walnut in 1827.

What is the present South Mifth Street was the eastern edge of the Town in the year this house came to life, and then that was "out in he woods". The old burial ground was outside of the town - then - in the square just east of South Sixth Street between Wabash Avenue and Thio Street. Curtis Gilbert afterward built his house right in the middle of this cemetery. Tradition has it that he built his house here so he could look out over the gave of his wife. However, history records that he built this house for his second wife and moved in it with her. Women have not changed that much even in that many years and certainly his second wife either did not know of this reason, or it was not the reason for this choice of locations. I am afraid Nrs. Curtis Gilbert the Second — certainly having a mind of her own — would have had something to say about looking out on the final resting place of her predecessor, day in and day out.

The second burial ground established for this growing little city was on a small hill north of the town overlooking the River - just west of the present Water Street. The buildings of the American Can Company are now located on that spot.

When our house first started its eareer, roads and paths cossed and recrossed this little town at all conceivable angles. There were only a few fenced fields east of the town on the prairie — which was the land we now know as between Sixth Street and Deming Park, where the first hills start on the east side of the city. The principal road them, was the Vincennes Road which left Second Street at Poplar and angled southwest to the corner of First and Oak, then running directly south to Vincennes.

There were only a few wells in the town them. Most of the people carried their water from the springs which, at that time, gushed out from the

the instead in force limits in these days. It was built at First and Malberry trot. John Britten built a buick nouse at Miret and Fryder in 1839 and Correct Midle built one at Main and First constine later. The First bolous and midth at First and Salant in 1827.

What is the year this brace came to life, and them that was four in the year this was came to life, and them that was four in the access four in the case. In the square just case of such birth birth birth street between Wahrsh Avenue and Unio Street. Ourtis Cilbert distribution has been right in the middle of this company. Tradition has it that he built his bones have an he would look out over the gave of his wife. In that he built his bones day to the coord wife and available to the coord wife and available to the coord wife and available to the built have. Wence have not changed that made over in their water years and cutation his coord of the coord wife and available of the coord of the reason, or the way years and cutation for this choice of look the coordinate of the season, they in the day about looking one on the final residue to day about looking one on the final residue for this growing librile off, out.

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There were only a few wells in the town them. Most of the people warried their water from the springs which, at that time, guided out from the

River bank. The Indians lived, more or less permanently, at that time, in a settlement just north of the town near the Old Indian Orehard. There were only a few families then and they were, on the whole, friendly and peaceful.

The year this house was started, is again significant to us today, for it was that year the first steamboat arrived on the River. It was named the "Florence", and it landed at the old boatyard, then located at the Bot of Oak Street at the River bank.

From the time this house was started - 1823 - to the time it was completed - 1826 - the progress of Terre Haute changed. It began to grow. There is no record of any Chamber of Commerce at that time but something promoted the city. From a sleepy little river village it began to grow into a city of importance. A great many new families came to Terre Haute at that time, families whose decendents, today, are among the leaders of the social and business life of the city.

I want you to have a picture of conditions here at the ine our house was built. At the time it was built, our house was a mansion. There was nothing like it in the country for hundreds of miles in any direction. It was a brave gesture to build so magnificent a house in the backwoods, which was then Terre Haute. It was justified, however, and our house, although mellowed with the years as the great city has grown up around it, stands bday bravely defying time's efforts to erase it as a landmark of an era, which it most certainly is.

rete did not decree Mr. Dewees was to have this land long. He started to build a house - a substantial and even pretentious one - and tried to build it along the pattern of houses he knew — those in and about French New Orleans. He wanted a stone house and there was very little stone about here. However, he ewned an interest in a stone cuarry someplace north — it is believed in and around the present Turkey or Mudlavia — and brought the stone from there by ex-cart to build his house. The winters were very cold here for Mr. Dewees's southern type house, but he persisted and finally completed his house at the end of three years.

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The bank, The incidents lived, note or less permanently, at the time, in an incident treatment of the term pour the Did Indian Orcherd. There were only in the third treatment of the whole, iriently and percenti-

The year title homes was planed, is again algorith to us today, in the it was that flower the fittes attempted on the fitter, the mas named a "planemage", and it landed at the als bosayard; then located a the fit of Oak at the distribution of the fitter lands.

From the chies notice of the terms of the terms of the time is very libered and second of say Chemiser of Commerce at their the last sense ling promoted the last areas of say Chemiser of Commerce at their the last sense ling promoted the life. From a sheepy tittle river village to began to graw into a city of antique. A continue of the comment of the that "inegentation where desired may are not the leaders of the social and retires where item as the social and attend of the often of the social and

I meet you to have a picture of conditions here at the fire our homes was a sunglen. There was nothing the it in the country for hundreds of miles in any direction. It was a knows a know to the in the backwoods, which was then forms forms to the prekwoods, which was then forms in the prekwoods, which was then forms in the prekwoods although mellowed with the first as the grown up around it, stands they bravely defying the stands they are of the it was testally defying the stands to the second of an arm, which it wast cortainly is.

Fate all not degree Mr. Demon was to have this hand long. We started to build build a house - a substantial and even pretentions one - and tried to build to build alone the pattern of bouses in one - those in and shout French May Grisams. We wanted a store bouse and there was very little store about hore. However, he made as interest in a tone quarry equalized north - it is buildered in and from the result for all bis bouse. In addition we are brought the store from there in the store in the store that he store from the continuers to build his bouse. In addition the continuers the house, in he specialised and finally completed his bouse at the end

The land about this house, which at that time belonged to the grounds, took in the territory which is now bounded by 13th Street on the West; 20th Street on the East; Poplar Street on the North and College Avenue on the South. The barn stood on the spot new occupied by St. Patrick's Church.

Our house sits well back from the street. When the side street — thirteenth and one-half — was opened, it was necessary to take out a part of the large circular brick walk which went around the entire house. With this west side taken out, the balance is still intect - the original bricks laid by Major Dowees' workmen.

The main house stands some 6 feet above the ground with a long flight of steps leading to the front veranda. The front entrance door is of immense width leading into a wide roomy hall on either side of which is a large square room. When the house was first built there was no connection, from the inside, between the first and second floors. Later a small staircase was cut into the corner of the ball.

The old brick areaway at the back of the house has now been enclosed to make additional rooms.

The walls of this house are some 18 inches thick, growing much wider as they reach the ground — the rock foundation on which the house rests being seven feet out from the walls.

The floors are of black walnut boards — tongue and grooved and fitting today as tight and flat as if just laid. There is not one nail in them. The rafters and joists are, in reality, beams — they are so large — all hand hewn and put together with wooden pags, not one of which has ever loosened.

You have all seen this house -- its large second story porch extending char across the front of the house -- its first floor being half in the ground and half out and its large, dignified rooms each with its own fireplace. The mantels of these fireplaces are thought to be original Adam mantels.

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The land shout this have which at thet the haloned to the grands, and the territory which is now howeld in 13th Street on the heart; 23th March on the heart fourth.

March on the spat now occurred by St. Letter the Church.

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Major George W. Devees was of French descent. He, his wife and son came to Terre Haute up the water route from New Orleans where — it was more than rumored — he had been engaged in the slave trade, and became very wealthy. He came overland, by waggon train from a point below what is now Evansville as freight and passenger boats had not yet traveled the Wabash River.

He is reported to have been a follower of Robespierre when he lived in France, and at his downfall, had to flee the country, along with many others, from the new government. He settled first in Pennsylvania with his two brothers and sister, later going to New Orleans.

Major Deveces was a very important man in these growing little observable. He was very wealthy, for that day, and took an active part in Givic and Community life. He was President of the Trustees of the Public Library which had been started in this town, gradually taking on the more serious aspects of a little community, as in the old issues of the Western Register — for the year 1823, when he was in the process of building his house — there appeared several notices signed by him as President of the Library Board — which, by the way, had the cultural benefits of seven hundred volumes to give to the people of this little community. He ran a general store, both here and at Paris, Illinois and was one of the stockholders of the new Branch Bank.

In spite of all this, he was not at all liked. Captain William Earle, who was born in the little village of Terre Haute in 1818 — was five years old at the time Major Devees started to build his house, and was eight years old at the time the house was completed — in writing of his early recollections of the place, wrote: "Major George W. Devees was a grim old man, thick set, with iron gray hair and whiskers, small eyes and a very sour look. He was universally unpopular. His two ferocious white dogs made him most of his reputation with boys of my age. All that glitters is not gold and somebody is said to be painted blacker than he is; so with the old Major. He was better than he was represented to be. I know of his furnishing a poor young woman with money to

Major George W. Henous was of Frameh account. Its will and conus to ferre have up the vater route from New Orleans where — it was more
us ramped — he had been emproed in the shawe trade, and became very weath
oute everland, a wargen train from a point below what is new Brandville as
height and consequer boots had not yet traveled the Naboch Mayor.

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pay her passage from Louisville to Terre Haute, and even refusing to be thanked.

We can trace Major Dewees to Terre Haute first in 1820. He must have come in May of that year because in the old ledger of Demas Deming, who had a general store in Terre Haute in those days. George V. Devees is listed as a customer first on May 15th, 1820. Certainly, if he had been here prior to that he would have appeared on the books of the town's best store. It is significant to our search, that the first entry on Mr. Deming's books in Mr. Dewees' account is an advance of cash in the sum of Ten Dollars. Certainly after a trip such as George Dewees and his family had made from New Orleans here, he would be short of cash. The next day-May 16th, 1829 there appears an entry in Mr. Deming's books that he paid \$162.78 in cash to "waggoners" for Mr. Dewees, indicating beyond a doubt, that Mr. Dewees's household goods and personal belongings had followed him and the carrier had to be paid. Then appeared, in the next few days, items on Mr. Deming's books of lumber, screws, hinges and other building supplies and another item of \$118.87 paid to "waggoners" for Mr. Dewees. Major Dewees, as he was called, was settling in the community. He was building his store and house on Buth Second street and soon he did not appear any longer on Mr. Deming's books as he had opened his own store and was holding himself out to the community as a dealer in "cash, corn and beeswax".

In the U. S. Census for the Indiana taken in 1820, deorge W. Deveces is shown in Terre Haute as the head of a family consisting of one male between the ages of 10 and 16 years of age, two males between the ages of 26 and 45; one female under 10 years old; one female between 10 and 16 years of age and one female between 16 and 26 years of age. This census also shows he had three colored female slaves. Who all these people were, there is no way of knowing. Certainly Mr. Dewees had no more than one child, because there is no mention anyplace of other than one child. These other people listed in the census of 1820 must have been workers at his store and in his household. So far as the three colored slaves are concerned, the constitution of Indiana in 1816

abolished slavery so far as the State of Indiana was concerned. By the act of

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my her passage from Bouleville to Terre haute, and even reducing to be thanked."

He can trace Major Heresa to Tarra Haute first in 1880. He count have use in New of the's year because in the clic ledger of Pense Bendan, who had a marel store in Terro Brate in these days, Coorge W. Devens is liketed as a antmen filtet on May 15th; 1620, Certainly if no had been here prior to that breet there appeared on the books of the town a best weren. It is significant to our search, that the first eater on Mr. Dening a books in Mr. Devens account I AM advence of each is the sum of You Dollars, Certainly after a trip much B George Devece and his finally had made from New Griesme here, he would be short of cash. The next day -- day 16th, 1859-- there appears as entry in the. lendag's mocks that he paid \$162,78 in cash to "waggeners" for Mr. Devens, Lagorand bas aboon biodesnod a second . The series that a double second patrolled eldegings and followed his and the quirter had to be gold. This appeared, in her next fee days, items on Mr. Demine! a books of lumber, moreway hinges and tol "stangegion" of blat 18-6118 le mait mations has colleges patielles radio To levere. He for Deress, as he was called, me cettling in the commenty. ton his on most has feeris knowed dish no sauch box even all anibited see Appear any losger on Mr. Dening's books on he had opened his own efore and wee the hissalf out to the community as a dealer in "cash, corn and beersaar".

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abolished slaver so for as the State of Indiana was concerned. By the act of

1807 of the Indiana Territorial Legislature, owners of negroes and mulatoes ever fifteen years of age were authorized to bring them into the Territory and have them bound to service by indenture for such a time as the master and the alave might agree upon. If the slave would not agree to indenture, his owner was allowed sixty days in which to remove him to any state where slavery existed. Most negroes at that time could neither read or write and many signed indenture agreements knowing nothing about them at all; in fact, their circumstances changed little, if any, after the ceremony of indenture.

In the Census for Indiana taken in 1830, ten years later, George W. Deveces is still shown as head of a family but now it is composed of only one female — who had to be his wife because we wknow that they were together at that time — and three males, one five to 10, one 20 to 30 and one 50 to 60. What happened to the other males and other females and the three negroes in that ten years, no one knows.

It is very interesting to search out the footprints of people long gone from this world. They are found in the most unusual and interesting places. In trying to trace Mr. Devess to Terre Haute, I found a receipt in the estate of Mr. Aspinvall, one of the original preprietors of the town of Terre Haute — a very wealthy man — where Mr. Aspinvall's Executors had paid our George V. Devess \$4.06 for a shroud for Mr. Aspinvall. Mr. Aspinvall died late in 1820 and was a very prominent and influential man. The fact that his family went to Mr. Devess' store for a shrould instead of Mr. Deming's or some of the other older stores in the town, indicates that Mr. Devess had risen fast in the community, because it was less than six months before, that he had to horrow money from Mr. Deming to pay the freight bill for his furniture and obtain material on credit to open his store.

Mr. Dewees had an interest in the Eones Store at Paris, Illinois and when he died, Mr. James Jones of Paris was one of his Administrators. He had an interest in a stone quarry north of Parks County and he had some business interests in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Use of the Indiana ferritorial Legislanurs, oners of regrets and malators are alless from these forms of age ware authorized to bridge them into the ferritory and have the bound to corride by industure for such a time as the menter and the slave agint agree upon. If the slave sould not agree to industry, his comer was allowed sixty days in which to remove its to any state where slavery also that negroes at that time could neither read or write and many signed industry that are knowing nothing about them at ally in fact, thesis at countries.

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He was, all in all, a very important and influential man although he was always in trouble with someone. He hardly had settled in Terre Haute until he was in and out of court, for one thing or another, time and again. Court had just been formed in Terre Haute when our Mr. Dewees was fined \$3.00 with costs of \$15.47\frac{1}{2}\$ on October 23, 1821. He was fined time and again and he sued many people himself. Of course, he owned a store and necessarily had bad accounts on his books. In these days money was not plantiful end it was difficult to pay accounts promptly. Everything from corn to hogs, valuuts and maple syrup were taken in payment of debts. In the old newspapers of that day, Doctors, and even the newspaper owners themselves, posted notices that they would accept a few bushels of apples in payment of debts for a short while, or that they would accept would accept a few bushels of apples in payment of debts for a short while, or that they

Major Deveces - at that time in his early fifties - with his lovely wife Matilda, who not yet 30 years old, and his young son, moved into his beautiful new house sometime in the year 1827. He had a high, heavy wooden fence built all around his property and the neighbors never felt welcome there. His dogs were not friendly, but in defense of the Major, it must be remembered was that he/nearly a mile from town and the Indians were not to be tusted. He was literally in the wilderness and was left alone by the other people of the town.

This house, which is so closely knat with the history of Terre Haute, was not to prove friendly to the Major. Within seven years of the time the family moved into the house all three were dead! At least two were dead and one was never heard of againt

The young con of the Major and Mrs. Dewees was scalped by the Indians one night in one of their uprisings and from that time on the Major and his wife kept more and more to themselves, having little, if anything, to do with their neighbors or the people of Terre Haute.

The mansion—for it was a mansion in those days—was called "The Lawn".

In the papers of the Jenkes family collection is a note which reads as follows:

He was, all in all, a very important and influential man although he at always is a arrable with semence. He hardly had nestied in Berry Raute watil and in it is not of court, for one thing or another, time and egain. Court had not been formed in ferre heats when our Mr. Demoes wer knot the option of the option of the court in the sementary of the court of the court in the seed many optio minself. Of course, he semed a rise and again and he seed many made minself. Of course days ususy was not plantiful and it wentalifically to a second a second court of the court in the second and a second a second a second of values, or down that they would accept a second of applies in payment of down for a short while, or that they would accept and about the test of values are place in payment of down for a short while, or that they would accept and about a fail they would accept and a society are tested of values or a place or open or open. See that they

The militar, who sot yet 30 years ald, and his young son, noved this lovely sent militar, who sot yet 30 years ald, and his young son, noved this his lovely sential have brude sometime in the year 1857. He had a minh heavy wooden false built all eromed the respectly and the notificant never felt velocus there.

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one might in one or the thirty and Mrs. Devese was easiped by the Tadians one might in one or the Major and his wife the more and nor themselves, having littles if marine, to do with their being or the people of February.

The mention it was a mention in these days-was called "The Laure."
In the papers of the Jodge Sanily collection is a note which reads as inlluves.

"Mrs. Deveos' compliments to Mr. Jenkes and will be greatly obliged to him for a few tomatoes for the purpose of making catsup, pickles, etc. provided he has them to spare. The Lavn, Sept. 25th, 1830."

This note adds one more interesting association to our house.

In 1830 tomatees were rare. They were cultivated in that early time only as curiesities and were thought by many to be poisonous. Still here is the lady of our house seeking out tomatees to make into catsup and pickles.

be running smoothly in our house at that time. There is no record of just when trouble started browing, but less than two years after Mrs. Devees friendly note about the tomatees, she was divorced, her husband, the old Major was in jail charged with murder and Mrs. Devees was never seen again.

On March 15th, 1832 there appears in Deed Record # 3 of the old records in the Recorder's Office of Vigo County a copy of an agreement entered into by George W. Deveces and John D. Early for and on behalf of Matilda Deveces, reciting that by mutual consent George and Matilda agree to livespart, George agreeing to pay to Matilda \$2300.00 by \$600.00 in each at that time and executing four notes assumting to \$1700.00 to be secured by a mortgage and also George agrees to give to Matilda *all paintings, pictures, articles of dress, plate and household furniture which she, the said Matilda may desire or select.

This agreement was carried out and George executed a mortgage to
John D. Early "for and on behalf of Matilda Devece, wife of George W. Devece"
on five tracts of land including the farm and the lots on South Second Street
where his store was located.

If Matilda took any of the household goods, George must have had considerable because in the inventory of his estate, filed in court, just three years later, is listed a complete household including silver plate and furnishings. In passing, it will be of interest to those of you who are antique

Demonstrate to Jenkon and will be builded to him for a few tepakines for the purpose of asidag ostemp, pickles, one, provided be bas them to spare. The laws, Sept. 5th 1830."

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On March 15th, 1892 there appears in Darch Record # 3 of the old records in the Becorder's Office of Vico County a copy of an appears entered into by George . Demons and John D. Early for and on behalf of Matilia Domese, resiting that y matted consent George and Katilida area to liverpart, Seorge treatments and treatment of the tild 2500.00 in the set at that time and recording for motion amounting to \$1760.00 to be secured by a mortgage and secured George appears to alve to Matilida Mail pointings, platures, articles of breas, plate and boundaries to alve to Matilida Mail pointings, platures, articles of breas, plate and boundaries without see, the self Matilida may decire of breas, plate and boundaries without see, the self Matilida may decire

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collectors, that his inventory reads as if it were the latest Hobbies Magazine. The inventory included four glass Decembers appraised at \$1.00 each; six wine glasses at 48¢; 12 Windsor chairs at \$12.00; one shot gun at \$5.00; one Cherry supposed at \$5.25; one High Post Cherry bedstead at \$10.00; one cherry wash stand with bowl and pitcher at \$4.00; one cherry bureau at \$18.00; one cherry stand at \$5.00 and numerous other articles, all of which would be nearly priceless today.

To get back to the Devees family -- Matilda was never heard of or seen after this agreement was signed.

Two months after signing this agreement, George filed suit for a divorce — which was rather unusual and a little rash, in those days when divorce was not nearly so common as it is today — and was granted a divorce, the sourt record reciting "but the defendant - Matilda - although called, comes not, but makes default". That was in May 1832, and on November 7th, 1832 — just six menths later — George was in jail.

The issue of the local newspaper — The Wabash Courier — of Hovember 8th, 1832, which carries at the top a by-line to the effect that "The editor is still so far confined by indisposition as to preclude his attending to editorial duties for the current week", carries the following news story:

"An unfortunate eccurance took place in this town, On Tuesday morning last, which though duty requires us to notice it, we should, under existing circumstances, comment upon with delicacy. On the evening previous, some differences having arisen between Capt. James Wasson and Maj. George W. Dewees, in which the latter considered himself insulted, he challenged Capt. Wasson to meet him in the street (being in Wasson's home) which was declined. Harly on Tuesday merning, Maj. Devees repaired to Capt. Wasson's armed with a pistol, and, meeting him om the porch, fired at him, at a distance of about six feet,. Wasson, who was turning at the instant, received the ball about the middle of the back, which entered in an oblique direction, ranging from the right to the left, partially downward, toward the kidneys. His surgeons consider the wound dangerous, though the result is yet uncertain. The ball has not been found, and it is uncertain where it has lodged. The Circuit Court, being now in session, Devees is held in custody, to wait the result. " he large found

to American trees, 1859 before John I. Berran, Victimes Suige of the Flour

collectors, the his inventory reads as if it were the latest Hobbies Magnetine, the inventory included four glass December and (1.00 each; six wine plates at \$12.00; one short guide. As 18.00; one Cherry cubered at \$5.25; one High her course beartest at \$10.00; one charry wash that bows and pitcher at \$4.00; one shorty baréss at \$15.00; one charry wash and of \$5.00 and remargue other at \$4.00; one shorty baréss at \$15.00 and remargue other articles, cli of which would be nearly

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Hajer Dewees was denied bail by the court and was held in the little log jail until Hovember 15th. Captain James Wasson did not die, and on that day Dewees was charged with Assault and Battery with intent to commit murder and released on bail of \$4,000.00 which was given by John H. Watson and Ralph Wilson efter Dewees had given them a mortgage on everything he ewned, which was not nortgaged to Matilda.

Captain Vasson. Captain James Vasson's name was very familiar to early Terre
Haute. He came from Connecticut in 1816 and had charge of the early tavern
or hotel. The tavern was commonly known as the Wasson House and afterward
became the famous Eagle & Lion. It was built of hewed logs on the southeast
corner of Pirst and Wabash. Wasson had been a sailor before he came to Terre
Haute. He was somewhat brusk in manner but very kind and was universally
liked. In 1828 when the Presbyterian Church was first organised here, he was
elected one of the first trustees along with William C. Linton and John Britton.

It may be significant in drawing conclusions and making speculations to note that the same Tuesday morning this shooting occurred was election day. Jackson was running against Clay for President and although Jackson was elected, Vigo County went for Clay. The vote in Vigo County steed 637 for Clay and 425 for Jackson, giving a majority to Clay of 212. Whether this fact should be given preference in our conclusions or whether we should give preference to the family entanglements of the Major — the separation, the divorce, the disappearance of Matilda, the differences in the ages of Matilda and the Major — all occurring within six months of the shooting — is a matter of personal preference only and subject to individual considerations so far as history is concerned.

When Major Devece' case was called in the May Term of the Court in 1833 it was venued to Parke County for trial. The trial was held at Mockville on August 19th, 1833 before John R. Porter, President Judge of the First elittle oit, at bled and has busen out of that belook were seened to oil tadt mo das eth for hip coses dans James these and con that rebress thempo of testat dib greated has if week they begreen and become at released on both of My000,00 which was given by Join il. Vatures and Ralph tion of ter Devees had given them a sortgage on everything he award which as not mortgaged to tatilde to the land of the profession to te

There is nothing recorded as to the remove satisfus at ered? Soldie Vasson. Captain James Wason's ness was wary familiar to early forces mie. He came from Connections in 1816 and had charge of the early tavors who be the tarent out out of the bases and as a country bearing and a frequency west the famous Ragle & Mon. It was built of haved lags on the evationet darier of first out based. Bases had been a salion before he came to ferre lute. He was numerial brush in manner but very aird and was universally then. In 1628 when the Presbyterium Church was first organized here, he was should one of the first trustees slong with William C. Linken and John Britton. acoultainence pulsies bue academiesco gaines at fuerilitzate ed par SI

to note that the seme Thought northing this smoothing occurred was election day. Seckers was remains applied they for Frontess's and although Jackson was elected, Vi to County want for Clay. The wate in Vigo County stood 637 for They and ARS for Jackson, giving a majority to they of 212. Marthan this face evily blueds or redsede as anotheriones are of second-red party of blueds preference to the family estamplements of the Enjoy - the separation, the distance, the disappearance of Matibia, the differences in the ages of Matilda a at - palacone out to estanou ate attisty paternoon lie -- 70; at out to anotherestance institutes of souther by one some considers independent in the test test and anotherestance

.begregge at wrotate as and on then Mujor Devices' deserves called in the May Term of the Court in 1833 it was wenned to Farde County for trial. The trial was held at Mockville on higgest 10th, 1833 before found R. Portory Freedant Jodge of the Flight

All the water works will provide the last

Judges of the County. Deves pleaded "Not Guilty". After a trial — the evidence of which is not available to us today since no record was kept of testimony in those days — the jury brought in their verdict; "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty of an assault and bettery and assess his fine at \$50.00; signed John Shook, Foreman".

On August 23, 1833, Devees paid his fine plus court costs of \$61.91 and was a free man again.

From the time Devees went to jail until his death, he never took an active part in his business or in the life of Terre Haute. In the newspapers of the day appeared several notices signed by Geo. W. Devees, from time to time, to the effect that "All things relating to my farm are left in the care of John H. Watson, Esq. and all mercentile transactions are in the care of Ralph Wilson, Esq."

Devees was very ill during the winter of 1833 and his neice, Elizabeth Patterson came to keep house for him. He recited this fict in his will and gave it as the reason for leaving to Elizabeth Patterson one half of his estate.

The next thing, cronologically, which affects our house is a suit brought May 6th, 1834 by John D. Early for Matilda Devees against George Devees on one of the notes which he hadn't paid. Early received the money and George paid the court costs of \$4.83 but Matilda never did appear.

In the issue of the Wabash Courier which came out on December 4th, 1834 appears this notice: "Died: At his residence, near this town on Saturday morning last — November 29th, 1834 — Major George W. Dewees, aged 58 years, for many years a resident of Vigo County".

George Dewees' vill was probated in court on April 21st, 1835. It is a peculiar will but typical of the character we have come to know as the Major. The will proper is not dated but a codicil is dated February 18th, 1834 and was written in Louisville, Ky., just before he started out from there to

Judicial Chronic of the State and Rebert Estockell and Descend Associate angle of the County Descent pleaded and Suct Guilleys. Ifter a trial — the chance of which is not erailed to be recing about an endough was work of continuous in these first frought in their vertical, "We, the test the defendant guilty of an assemble and buttery and assemble at the office of its assemble and buttery and assemble at

of was a free man again.

From the time Devent went to juil watth him death, he never took an active part in his business or in the life of Terre Baute. In the newspapers the day appeared by manual newtons signed by doe. It issues, from time to the cheek that things relecting to at farm are left in the tare. I some if some in the tare of some if some in the tare are left in the tare. I some if some in the care of some in the care of some in the care.

Develop was very 111 during the wheel of 1899 and his meloo, Klincheth hiteren came to keep house for him. Fo rested this fict in his will and gave it at the reason or leaving to Missheth Determon one half of his senate.

The sent thing eronologically, which arrivets our recent a suit.

Thought May the 1834 by John D. Early for Maidlin Launes against George

Auses on one of the notes which he hade't prid. That received the noney and

layes and the court coate of first fathlike never this exposm.

In the issue of the Walman Courier which wase out on Secumber Athy 183, and that action a "Sieds it is residence and that town on attributer marriag last - Normaber 29th, 1834 - 12 for Secret W. Sevens, 1850 Secret Secret Sevens, 1850 Secret Secret Sevens, 1850 Secret Secret Sevens, 1850 Secret Secret

George Devers! will was probated in court on April 21st, 1895. It a poulist will but typical of the character we have ease to know as the sim. The will prepar is not dated but a codicil to dated the transfer 1854. It's written in Louisville, to just before he started out fine to to

come home. He must have carried his will with him on his trips because the codicil is written on the bottom of the original. His will reads:

"In the name of God Amen: I, George W. Devees considering the uncertainty of this mortal life & being of sound mind; blessed be almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form foll.g (that is to say) I give, bequeath and devise unto my dear sister Ann Potts, now residing in Schulkill-Haven, in the State of Pennsylvania, one half of my real property, situated in the State of Indiana, about one half of a mile from Torre Haute, also one half of the lands that I possess in Tgo County - the situation will be ascertained by examining the patents left in my Port Folio, they being a part of my valuable papers; the remaining part of my real property, also personal (Subject to only one exception) I bequeath & devise to my dear niece Elisabeth Patterson who now resides here & who mursed me with unremitted attention last winter when attacked by a violent and dangerous disease. My sense of gratitude impels me to do what I have expressed, believing and hoping that my relations at a distance who are more nearly connected to me by the ties of consenguinity will approve of this act. The exception refered to is my silver plate, which is given to my sister, Ann Potts. I give nothing to either of my brothers. The oldest treated me with unpresented cruelty in Philadelphia in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, the other being independent in his circumstances appears to me to require nothing at my hands. I appoint Elisabeth Patterson my niece, executrix. James Jones of Paris, Ill. one of my executors & Daniel Johnson of Terre Haute, the other, the two last are to receive from the mass of my estate one hundred and fifty dollars each as a compensation for their trouble. All my just debts are to be discharged immediately if possible. There is sufficient capital invested at Paris, Ill. under the firm of J. Jones & Co. to discharge all & a handsome balance left in my favor. I hereby revoke all former wills by me made. In order to prevent a sacrifice of my real property I wish it retained for one or two years. My sister and niece however must receive in order to support them \$200 per year each, which the plantation will readily yield. As I am in daily conversation with E. Patterson & she as a matter of course knowing my business better than any other individual, I wish much attention to be paid to what she may sugest as to time and terms concerning the sale of my real property.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named Geo. W. Dewees to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of

the testator.

(Geo. B. Morrison

Geo. W. Devecs.

Witnesses

(Elisha Applegate

CODICIL TO THE WITHIN WILL

About to set out for the State of Indiana in a few days hence, I believe it to my duty & know it of course to be my wish that my sister as named in the within and niece here, E. Patterson, should possess my property as herein discribed, subject to all the rules and regulations laid down— the only difference I now make is, that instead of James Jones of Paris, & D. Johnson on Terre Haute, is

and same. He must have carried his with his on ithe trips because the

saharr libe att . Issights out to mother add no matthe at libite

Win the mean of God Amen. I, George W. Deress considering the description of this mortal life & boing of sound mind; blassed be eluighty fed for the same, de make and published this my last (tes of al fadt) galiel much has remme at identiced has filly Litra, bequesth and device unto my dear states ton fothe, new residing in Schultill-Haven, in the State of Fennsylvania, one half of my real preperty, situated in the State of Indiana, about one balt of a mile from ferre Haute, sine one half of the Lamis bentatueous ed Ilin multantin edt - vieno og al escenaro I tade by executating the patents left in my Fort Folio, they being a port of my valuable papers; the remaining part of my real property, earvab & discussed I (solvers one wine of judicus) lasters q cals ody & erad schiser was ody serrestly indeally seeks real we of nd beile state correction desired and seek software with an beautiful at alogal shutting to some til senselb angregarb tes insiste a to do what I have expressed, believing and hoping that my relations To said only we am as hed nemon planess over our adverganable a sa commendate will apprive of this act. The exception referred to I settle on a later will be given to my distant and lotte. I at you not be at the or the trackers. The oldest treated no at the requestanted exualty in Philadelphia in the year one thousand eight hundred and electron, the ether bring independent in the stroughtances uspenes to se to require notifing at my bands. I appoint Mil salesth Pathorness of aloce, emecutain, Jones Jones of Paris, Ill. one of my executery & Daniel Joinson of Terre Haute, the other, the two last are to receive from the mean of ty estate one inudwed and filling dollars each an a compensation for their trouble. All my just dects are to be discharged immediately if cossisie. There is sufficient dented invested at Paris, Ill. under the firm of I. lones & Co. to all former wills by me made. In order to prevent a smortfice of my real property I wish it robateed for one or two years. We mister and alone however must receive in exice to support them \$700 per year each, which the plantation will readily yield. Is I am in daily conversation with I. Potterson & she as a matter of course down date I Laubivibal medio and noticed beenland on nelworm attendion to be gold to what she may sugest as to time and terms democrating the sale of my real property. Magned, sealed, printend and doclared by the above named Gao. W.

Again sealed miditated and doclared by the above named Gap. W. Despoy to the last will and tendenced in the presence of us who have becounte subscribed our names as witnessess in the presence of

the sesteeps.

Gen. M. Dewees.

(Coo. B. Marrison Viltaneses (

(Misha Applagate

CODICH. TO THE HITHIN VILL

About to get out for the State of Indiana in a few days hence, I believe it to my duty & kmen it of course to be my wise that my sister as seem in the within and not here, I. Intereson, should possess my property as berein discribed, success to all the rules and and and and here's a success is now make is, the and and the last of the course is not bento, is

Le interestifing to party and eligible bear to that I formerly appoint D. L. Chambers of Louisville & Wm. Early, of Torre Haute, with the same compensation as the two first were allotted to have, as my executors after my death to dispose of or retain my property until it will sell for a fair price, hereby revoking all other and former wills or testaments by me heretofore with made, provinces and attention to detail; who

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this eighteenth day of February eighteen hundred and thirty four.

In presence of the same was the kind of

Daniel C. Banks they waste for the term Coo. V. Kinney and white our source artists with

Geo. W. Dewees

(Seel)

Louisville, Jefferson County, Ky. 88:

Geo. W. Devees, this day personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the Peace for said county, and acknowledged and declared the foregoing will & codicil to be his last will and testament.

Given under my hand this 18th day of Febr. 1834.

the name ofthe and -- but that in find the party -- it but

6 Years ball and shout 20 feet deep them to Daniel C. Banks, J.C.) (J.P.

to the day was and are oned to take day for a My last will and testament signed and witnessed this day Aug., Aug. the sixth, 1833.

Geo. W. Dewees

You will notice be maken no mention of Matilda or of any children. Matilda, by that time, had not been seen by anyone for ever four years. Early brought suit for her but she did not appear. In May, 1835, just after the will was probated, Elisa Linton, for herself and the minor heirs of William Linton, brought suit against the heirs of George Dewess to obtain a deed to certain land formerly owned by the Major and joined Matilda in that suit. Matilda did not appear but Early released her claim for her. Later, on Oct. 29, 1835, Early receipted a note for Matilda which was filed in the George Devees estate, but still no one had ever seen Matilda.

This is all there is of record relating to the first family of our house. There was a story circulated that Matilda had been seen in France but the recorded facts leave ample room for speculation and conjecture and you may draw conclusions as well as anyone.

that I formerly appoint D. L. Canmbers of Louis wills & Me. Barly. of fours limits, with the care compensation as the two figst were allotted to have, as an executors after my death to utapose of or so property until it will sell for a fair rice, hereby evelored on to atominate up callly removed but not to all a particular

In Window his and and on dor sourced evad I lossed and and ill al this edginoseth day of February electron bundred and billyty four.

then a market of the same talk the best his or .

In presence of:

of: Labial C. Benke Cso. W. Levess (Seal) Cso. V. Manay

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don. in Dewson, ship the the personally appeared before the underchaned Justice of the Peace for said country and somewledged and declared the forestand but filly sant all of of Illiton & filly relegated odd

Oaven under my hand filds 18th day of Febr. 1894.

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while the state to be the state of Aug. Ance state, 1855.
Goro. V. Derroce

You will notice be saken as mention of intilde or of ent children. Milde, by that time, had not been seen by engone for over four years. arly brought auth for her but the cite not appear. In May, 1835, just after to arred tends the library for torpelf and the place being for a mirror of nearest egreed to arthe out tentess the delivered tentest and the deed to correct lead formerly owned by the index and loland retailed in the suit, sutilida did not oppose but artir columned hor ciata to nor, attenen dot. 29, 1835, Barly recelpied a mote for Matlida valob was slad in the beurge Newcoo estate, but svill no one had ever ever tetilds.

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want of the second services and the second s The second second of the secon It is interesting to note one significant thing, however, in commection with all these speculations on the disappearance of Matilda Devece. You will note that this house Mr. Devece built was done carefully, with great precision and attention to detail. Its every door, window, joist, and board match carefully and are fitted exactly. The fireplaces are twins — the one in the east nom on the east wall being exactly matching the one in the west room on the west wall — only with one exception. Consider why this one exception should have been made — or was it made?

Both fireplaces here extend out from the wall a good five feet and are solid from the floor to the ceiling. The fireplace in the west room has a cupboard built into each side of the shinney about 2 feet wide and about 6 feet tall and about 2 feet deep. These cupboards have doors on them and contain shelves and are used to this day for storage and for books. The fireplace in the east room being a twin of the west one has a cupboard on the north side and — but that is just the point — it has none on the south side. A space matching the bupboard on the north — large enough to hold a human body —has been bricked up solid from the floor to the ceiling on the south side — and Mrs. Devece was never seen or heard of again!

house has wendered about the lack of the matching supboard and has let her curiousity take her so far — but not far enough. Mrs. Smith one day with a poker, pried in between two of the bricks on the south side of this east chimney — where the supboard should have been if it ever was — and got her poker in past the thickness of the brick and found empty space. A space deep enough and wide enough to match the depth and width of the twin supboard on the north side is in back of that bricked-up well. When she withfrew the poker, a dank, musty odor likemed to that from a dark, aged crypt came with it.

Mrs. Smith has never gone further. She is tempted — but is fearful of what she may find.

It is interesting to note one atgnirioust thing, however, in some orders. It is intiliant that the disappearance of intiliant some and the disappearance of intiliant journess. It will note that this house her. Decree halls was done correctly, it is greated and attention to done. Its owney door, window, that each board under eachily and are fitted emotify. The fireplaces has been in the same in the each wall being eractly matching the end in the want toom on the perturb of and which one wheather. Consider the end in the want toom on the perturb of and and or the matching that one wheather.

Deth firspiaces care extend out from the unil a good five fact and use policy from the floar to the culture. The disreplace in the west want in exposered built into cath nice of the obtainsy about in feet wide and about if feet tall and about it feet deep. These capbeards have doors an them and extend their shelves and are used to this day for storage and for books. The firspiace in the east from being a twin of the west one has a supposed on the nexth side and — but that is just the point — it has none on the mouth the apparent to the mouth — large enough to hald a than body —has been briefled us solid from the north — large enough to hald a than body —has been briefled us solid from the floor to the calling as the

Note has each time, here one was notice as an or heard of against here. Here is in the inot of the present owner of this fabriles been done has equipment as the electric of the matching orghound and has let here extends by take her so far — but not far enough. Here, finishe one day with a pricer, price in between two of the bricks on the routh side of this case the cupbeard about if the routh side of this case has the right and the this the interpreta of the brick and found angity space. A space of the name has north wide enough to mitch the depth and width of the tria emphasized the name has north wide to that brick or and with an appear the star or days, much of the back of that bricked up will. When she with the

the delth sam never gone further. She is temphed - but is fearful of what

That, my friends, is the story of our house - the house at 1339 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, Indiana -- which even today gives rise to comments and remove of being haunted. The story of a house which is truly stranger than fiction - but much more fascinating than many fictions. It is the Story of a house which is rich in tradition and steeped with the history of this City. It is the story of a house which under absolutely no circumstances should be lost to the generations of people of Terre Haute to some. This house is the one and only remaining link which ties today with the period of Terre Heute's growth which it represents, and it is most certainly a duty and abligation on the residents of this dty and sounty to do something to preserve this house for posterity. It should, by all that is ight and just, belong to the people of this City. It should be in the custody of some organization such as the Daughters of the American Revolution or of the Vigo County Historical Society, as a sacred trust, to preserve it intact and as it is. Over one hundred and twenty four years have passed since the construction of this house was started and it has withstood time and weather for only one purpose - to link today with yesterday, to give to the people of today some idea of the heritage of the past which is theirs. Some effort should be made to protect and preserve this link with the past. Another hundred and twenty four years cannot pass with this house remaining as it is, unless some effort on the part of interested persons is made. Consider it seriously, but more then that - do something about it!

There is a time — nine years to be exact — before the next period in the history of this house starts — the time which alapsed from the time Major Dewees died in December, 1834 until this house was acquired by Nathaniel Preston in March 1843. This later period, then, is continuous, as the present owner and occupant — Mrs. Matalie Preston Smith — is the granddaughter of that early Nathaniel Preston.

Upon Major Dewees' death, his house passed by his will to his sister,

Then, my friends, is the story of our means - the bouse at 1999 ster Direct, Torre limbe, Latine -- which even today gives the to sements responds gives at datas sened a to mode off the truly stand to another to end al al . assattant men many pridestant aren farm ful -- nettate to provide add driv bequest has modificate at doir at decisis count a to put the Clay. It is the story of a mean which maker absolutely no circumstances and he lost to the generations of respect to seems, This is to boized only state that the time today with the ported of bus which a winistrate is and at the appearance and at the most containing a data and attention on the residence of the all county to do consider to precent the house for content to should, by all that is night and just belong to contracting to this date. It should be in the ountedy of word organization and he beer beer beer the description formantion at the Figs Bounty ai ti aa bua toatul di svissen av desui betasa a aa gristaal Lackstonii he authorrange eds souls beeng evan wave years but and the contract one the eno pino sol rediese des suit bootedits and it has been for only one Purpose - to lithe color with yesterday to give to the people of today name when of bluede ruthe come . Should be the witch to sand to me 's process has bothand recisons when the past with the process and beauty our yours senior pass with this booms woundring as it is, unland sense effort come at interested persons to made, Counted to section by the more more tok special and the same of th

There is a the - sine years to be exact - before the peak perhed
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the start of the later freshes batth - is the grandless of

Upon Major Downes! death, bis homes passed by his will to his sister,

Ann Potts of Schuykill-Haven, Pa. and his noice Elisabeth Patterson who later married a David Petts. The relationship of Elisabeth Patterson and her Aunt Ann Potts is a strange one. Nothing much is known about them but although Ann Potts was a resident of Schuykill-Haven, Pa., at the time of Major Dewees' death, she didn't stay there long, as there is a record of her death at Plainfield, Indiana on September 6, 1849 — just fifteen years after she inherited one half of this fabulous house. Ann Potts' husband was named Samuel and she had been married previously to the Major's death.

Elisabeth Patterson was not married when she inherited half of this house, but was married, less than six months afterwards — on May 21, 1835 to David Potts. Whether David — Elisabeth's husband — and Samuel — Ann's husband — were brothers, or father and son, or some other relationship — or mone, has been the subject of much speculation, but at least it is one more thing which adds to the mystery and interest attaching to this house.

The Major's estate was not settled until 1841, and even then not until his Administrators had been cited by the Court for failure to do so. But before that time ann and Elizabeth needed some money, so they mortgaged this house for \$2515.00 to one John K. Watson. That mortgage was never paid, but was assigned to Demas Deming in 1838, he eventually sequiring title to the house in 1843. Before Mr. Deming acquired the title, however, Elisabeth and her husband David needed some more money, so they sold out their interest to Ann for \$6,000.00 - remember the Devees Farm as it was then known consisted of a great stone mansion, a detached servants quarters, a large barn and several out-buildings, another small dwelling and 160 acres of land. Ann -within six months -- sold the place to a man named Hitchcock who apparently didn't buy the place for a residence but for speculation, since within six months he sold it to another man by the name of Hitchcook for nearly twice what he paid for it. This latter Hitchcock didn't seem to want it for a residence either, since in the Nevember 27, 1841 issue of the Western Register, he advertised it for sale, calling attention in the advertisment to the

ever servied a David Potte. The relationship of Micabeth Reterson and ever servied a David Potte. The relationship of Micabeth Potterson and want and Potte and a strings one. Nothing anch is known about them but though Ann Potte was a resident of Schwirill-Saven, M., at the time of Micabeth Ann Potte was a resident of Schwirill-Saven, M., at the time of Micabeth at Plainfield, Indians on September 6, 1169 — Just Elfteen years for the indianship of this falcions become. Ann Potts' susband was need Samel and who had been savenied previously to the Major's death.

Healeth Potterson was not married when she indenticed half of this bones.

Hasheth Patterson was not married when she industiced half of this owner it as married, less than ein months afterwards — on May 21, 183 to David the, Whether David — Elimebeth's humband — and Samuel — Ann's bushend — were brothers, or father ad son, or some other relationship — or meno, been the subject of much speculation, but at least it is one mare thing , the subject of much speculation, but at least it is one mare thing .

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widence either, since is the Movember 27, 1841 issue of the Western Register,

"Stone Mansion House". Demas Deming later bought the property, as he already held the mertgage.

It is apparrent Demas Deming bought the house to assist his friend and co-worker Preston, because, within eleven days of the date Deming bought it, he transferred it to Mcthaniel Preston for a consideration of \$6,000.00 of which Mr. Preston paid \$500 at the time. Mr. Deming took a mortgage back for \$5,500.00, which was paid off by Mr. Preston in 1850. At this time Mr. Deming was the President of the T. H. Branch Bank and Mr. Preston was the cashier.

In 1834, just shortly before Major Dewees died, the Terre Maute

Branch Bank was organized. The directors were Demas Deming, Chauncey Rose,

Curtie Cilbert, J. Sutherland, J. D. Early, James B. McCall, David Linten and

Samuel Grawford. Demas Deming was chosen president and James Farrington cashier.

Major Dewees was one of the subscribers to the stock but died before the stock

was issued to him. There are receipts in his estate file showing payments

made by his executors to the bank on the stock subscription price.

The bank was housed in the building we know today as the G. A. R. Hall on the south side of Ohio Street just opposite the Court House. The cashier lived in the back rooms of the bank, as a part of his job was to act as caretaker of the money and the premises.

the first teachers at the old brick school. He taught there until he entered the Bank as a clerk and was afterward elected cashier.

Who lived in our house from the time of Major Deveces' death until Mr. Preston bought it and moved in to make his home, is not known. If anyone lived in it, it certainly was not for long because it changed too often for any roots to grow.

Nathaniel Preston and his wife, the fraer Charlotte Wood, lived here all of their lives and reared their family here. Later Margaret Preston

time Maneton Houses. Demas Desing later bought the property, as he already

It is apparent fining letter bought the bouse to applied his without source to applied his without source.

"The transferred it to detirated fractor for a consideration of figures."

"Which Mr. Tractor cale (900 at the time. Mr. Dending took a northgane back of \$5,000.00, which Mr. Tractor and the life. Tractor in 15,000.00, which was paid off by the life. Tractor in 150. At this time Mr. with the Freeldent of the T. M. Krenter in 150. At this time Mr.

In 1834, fust that before infor heres died, the ferre haute and the hard force and the hard hard force or one of the calledt force of the here of the here of the here of the calledt of the substitution of t

The best ent suggest in the source of the premises, we show that the the the the fine section of the source course of the premises. The sale of the source and the premises, we sale of the source of the premises.

Retirement Freeton came to Ferre Marte From Vermont and was one of a first trackors at the old brick school. He taught there until he entered a lack on a slork and was afterward elected probler.

The lived in our name has the time is not known. It anyone that is not known, It anyone that it is not known, It anyone that it is not known, it canged too often for

roots to grow.

Nethaniel Preston and his wife, the Brast Charlotte Wood, lived to all of their lives and reared their family here. Inter Margaret Preston

and her brother lived here until their deaths at which time it was inherited by Mrs. Smith who lives here at the present time in the summers, spending her winters in Florida.

This house, in addition to its rich and varied direct history, has many interesting associations with the life of other people in the community, whose historical relies are a part of, and belong to, this house.

Mrs. Charlotte Weed, a pioneer of early Terre Haute came to the town in 1835, just the year after Major Devees died. She was a widow at the time and had three sons and six daughters. Her husband, John Wood, a native of London had died, and about the only income she had was a pension which had been granted to her because of her husband's service in the War of 1812. She reared her family well and they married and settled in Terre Haute. From this family spring names very familiar to the social and civic life of the present Terre Haute. The second daughter of Mrs. Wood married Mathanial Preston and became mistress of the house of our storey — the famous Devees Mansion. Mrs. Wood's claimst son, William Maxwell was one of the most famous of our distinguished Mayal Medical Officers.

entering the Maval service as Assistant Surgeon. He had several posts one of the more important ones being on the Schooner GRAMPUS with the West India Squadron in 1832 and 1833. After several other posts he was appointed Fleet. Surgeon to the Pacific Squadron from 1844 to 1846. During this period he rendered such a distinguished service to his country that there is recorded in the archives of the Navy an official document address to him by Commodore Shoat, then Commander—in—chief of the Pacific Squadron in which he says in part; "I am most happy to acknowledge the very importance services you rendered the government, and the Squadron in the Pacific, under my command, at the breaking out of the Mexican War. The information you furnished me at Magatlan, from Guadalawara — at the risk of your life — was the only reliable

of her bretteer lived here until their deaths at which time it was it was inherited at the summers, spending her inters in Florida.

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He was born is Maryland and appointed from there may inthe, 1879 to the Marall service as accietant Surgeon. He had serviced to the service one of more important once being as the Concomer Changles with the West India made in 1832 and 1833. After several other pasts he was appointed Fleet made in the India and the India be not the indifference of the Indianation from 1844 to 1645. Further that partied he addered such a distinction service to his country that there is recorded the archives of the Mary and of that Country that there is recorded the archives of the Mary and of that Pacific Squadren in which he rays in the Indiana power that government, and the Squadren in the Pacific, under my connected the properties out of the serious way. The information you furnished us at the properties out of the serious way. The information you furnished us at the properties out of the serious way. The information you furnished us at

information I received of that event, and which induced mt to proceed immediately to California, and upon my own responsibility to take possession of that country. I have always considered the performance of your journey through Mexico at that time as an extraordinary feat, requiring great presence of mind and address. How you escaped from the heart of an enemy's country and such a people has always been a wonder to me and has been so characterized on all occasions.

Just consider -- connected with this remarkable house is a man withfout whom the great State of California and in fact the whole of the North West would not have been a part of our country. The Chairman of the Maval Committee of the Senate commented upon William Maxwell Wood's valuable services in the following words: "Every intelligent mind must at once appreciate the importance of the service which you have rendered the country. and your personal hazard in traveling through the heart of the enemies! country, communicating with your military superior and furnishing him with the sols and other wise unattainable information upon which he based the accuisition of California. The importance of this acquisition can best be estimated by asking ourselves, what would have been our natural position in the Pacific and upon our Oregon frontier had Great Britian, instead of ourselves, acquired permanent position of it? I always contended that its acquisition constitutes one of the navy's strongest claims upon the gratitude of the Nation, and this Chapter in its history, furnished by your own service, but strengthens this conviction."

Commodors Wood served as Fleet-Surgeon for the East India Squadron from 1856 to 1858 taking part during this service in the Chinese War, being on board the Flagship with Commodors Armstrong and Admiral Foote during the capture of the four Barrier Forts on the Canton River which was the decisive battle. He had various other services and another one of particular interest being the time he was Fleet-Surgeon with the North Atlantic Elockading Squadron

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Just when the great State of California and in fact the whole of the

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the time he was Fiset-Surgeon with the North Stantic mode if particular laterest

during the rebellion at which time he was on board the flagship Minnesoto in the first battle of the Irenclads - the Menitor with the Merrimac and other vessels of the Confederate Squadron. At the time he retired in 1871 he was Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

In all of the official biographies of William Maxwell Wood there is one period of his service with the Navy which is passed over insignificantly with these words "Special duty, 1834 to 1837". It is during this period that our fabulous house comes again into the picture for in this house is a letter bearing on this period of his service which not only has historical significance to Vigo County but has a Mational and even International value.

r by a white mestacks. Eis Greet I want to take this apportunity to mad to you one of the letters o then a small red word around a of Commedore Wood written during this period of special duty which has never over-white common bandal care a been published in any of the articles relating to his work and life, and rotes the afficers to the m which has never heretofore been gives any publicity. This letter is e use, exacining those admit contemporaneous with the history of this house and rightly belongs in it. of them and of them It was written Aug. 12, 1834 -- which you will note was just shortly before chick led by the least dethe death of Major Devees -- and was written abourd the "U.S. Frigate, SHIP THE ELL SHIPE Independence" and addressed "My dear Nother". It reads:

On the morning of July 25th in the Gulf of Finland, we discried approaching us and stretching across the direction in which we were sailing, a long, regular line of sail. They proved to be the Russian Fleet of thirteen vessels, eight of them being Ships of the Line. They presented one of the most imposing sights I have ever vitnessed on the coesn. A moderate breeze gradually blew us near to each other in an easy and dignified manner becoming both the Native fleet and the Stranger it velocities to these waters.

At a proper distance we made our bow to the Russian flag by a salute of thirteen guns which was immediately returned from the leader Ship, a fine three decker bearing the Admiral's Flag.

Upon making my way to the deck early the next morning, I found our ship in the condition of a Man of War entering a port. All the deck officers and crew at their respective stations, the pilot giving the course; the leads man in the chains announcing in measured note the depth of water, after each cast of the lead. The idlers, purser, Captain of Marines, Chaplain, etc, from the most advantageous position they could obtain making their observations and remarks upon the new

during the rebellion at which then he was on board the ingrained distributed to the figuration of the ingrained and other research of the Confederate Squadrane. At the time he retired in 1871 he was faled of the flarence of Medicine and Jungary.

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Independence and addressed Phy dear Nothers. It reader

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Upon maiding my way to the deck maily the near morning,
I found our skip in the condition of a knp of her entering a
port. All the deck officers and siew at their respective
atations, the pilot giving the course; the leads man in the
chains amnouncing in messaured note the depth of water, after
cach cast of the less. The idlers, purpor, daptein of Marines,
Chaplain, etc. From the nost advantageous position they could
contein mentral their chaptes and reserves upon the new

objects and scenes before them. In a short time we were anchored off Christobal in the middle of numerous and elegant Russian men of war, of all sizes, from schooners up to three-deckers.

Our anchor had little more than reached its bed, and the litter was scarcely cleaned up, when a handsome man of war-looking and richly ornamented ocean boat drew near to our ship and a large barge with many officers in it left her and pulled to us. The barge was steered by a person wearing a white cape with a crimson band. After all the officers had reached our deck, where they were received by the Commodore, and asked into the cabin, the individual who had steered the barge came on board and sauntered about the ship alone, I regarded him with attention and will describe to you his appearance. His frame was over 6 feet in height, erect, powerful and wall proportioned; a somewhat full, regular featured and agreeable face with a lively, keen blue eye, the whole having an expression of calm, cool determination and active energy, particularly about the slightly compressed mouth which was over hung by a white mustache. His dress fitted him well and was composed of an olive frock coat destitute of ormment other than a small red cord around the cuff and edges, light blue pantaloons with a similar red cord around the seams, and the snow-white crimson banded cape above mentioned.

Instead of following the officers to the more showy and parlour-like parts of the ship, he crossed his hands behind him, and walked forward among the men, examining them minutely. As he returned to the quarter-deck he stopped to look at the marine guard and taking a musket from one of them, he closely inspected it, opening the lock, drawing the remrod and then noticing one of the ladders which led to the lower deck and apartments, he unceremoniously and quickly stepped down it and proceeded them to every part of the ship. You will wonder why I have been thus minute in describing this individual until I tell you he was the Emperor Michelas, Autocrat of all the Pussions - the unlimited ruler of sixty millions of beings, with every head from that of the slave to the nobleman, at his disposal; commander of an army numbering more than a half a million of men, and Patriarch of the Greek or National Church, - in all, the most powerful monarch in the world.

To see him is to read the rapid march of his nation, not long ago in a State of barbarism, and now rivalling all others in elegance and richness.

That — nothing may be lost — he is himself a practical man, a sailor and an Engineer. If anything worthy of adoption exists on our ship, it has been noticed and will belong to the Russian Navy; but from the appearance of his Ships, I am inclined to think he is as well able to teach, as fit to learn. After he left the ship we gave him a salute, during which he stood by himself on the wheel-house of the steam boat looking steadily at us, and as the boat was near, our leads flew past him with a great force. Immediately upon the conclusion of the salute, he ran up the American Flag on board the steam boat while it was returned from one of his

Cataber 14, 1961 to Magain by Estrict & Malaba from Santings.

objects and scores before Even. In a short time we ware predicted of Christope and elegant Russian sentent at the side of the constant was no three-darkers.

time and and aft bestween and even eligible took radioms and to mee searcely oldened up, when a handsome men of TWO of Tues word fund mance before the guide for the court to our here was find it at exection was sittly egred egral a hos whis a guinest morned and become age orded off ten of belling white caps with a original bend, there all the officers had reached our deck, where they were received by the Campeters, and series ben one lambivides but alles out otal being bas terro case on board and sometored about the side alone. I regarded him with extendion and will describe to you his apparence. His freme was over 6 feet in hotelt, eredt, powerful and well proportioned a somewhat fully regular featured and agreeable face with a lively, bosh blue eye, the whole baving an expression of sain, cool decomination and bearenged within and though the property of the contract mouth which was ever hung by a white markeche. His dress deed doo'd evilo an to besomed any has flow aid heddin end havers bros ber Llam a medd tedde dramarro to edutionel buse her validas a dair emcelature culd fight acque has The around the means, and the enew-white ordinson banded cape above .Bombisch

Instead of following the officers to the more showy baries aband wid hereove ad quite off to erroy outli-median has time and walked forward sacas the ment executing them minutely. and do not of beggeds ad most-cortup edt of becautes ed al. marine quart and taiding a mark from one of thom, he chosely inapported it, opening the look, drawing the remred and them notining one of the ladders which led to the lower deek and apartments, he unceresoniously and quickly stepped down it mehand fifty mel .qlrie off to frag preve of med bahesopra bah Litter factivities and trees of estents and read over I give ent its to derected enclosed Mergers ent ear on por flet I Bushlans - the unlighted ruler of sixty millions of beings, with the amended and to the the the control of the court bank are the a tier a mail over parendeen vers as to webracus tierogail efficient of men, and Patriaron of the Greek or Enthern Compron. - in all, the nest powerful meaning in the world,

notice and to down a bigger out the rest of all and one revelling all others in alegamen and richness.

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frigates, and then he amnounced his presence to his various ships, by hoisting the imperial flag, at the sight of which commenced a simultaneous firing from every man of war (about twelve) in the harbor, and from the forts on shore roar followed roar, and the whole atmosphere was clouded with smoke.

In the course of the day, the Emperor sent us an invitation to visit his palace of Peterhoff, about nine miles distant, to ride through the gardens and view the splendid water works, which play only during his presence, representing every possible devise from animals to trees in full foliage with every leaf a crystal jet of water; and to conclude the day by attending the Emperor's private Opera. The day appointed was Sunday; but when the steam boat which was for his guests arrived, our ship poured forth a goodly array of officers, in all the paraphanalia of full dress, swords and cocked hats. The temptations to visit the sphendors of Peterhoff prevailed against scruples of conscience, and inclination justified itself by the plea of a seldom occurring opportunity and the maxim of "In Reme" etc.

one lower classes are burned. I will toy application to you

There are many more letters reposing in this house which are rich in historical value and which have been made available to me. They have never been given any publicity before.

the very in which they are buried. There are very large bales

Margaret Preston, or Maggie, as she was affectionately known by all her friends, lived in this house all her life. Her letters and mementoes are here. Among these letters are two I would like to read to you. They are frivolous in places — but only recording the spirit of the youth in the period they portray. They are valuable historically and have local significance because they are the letters written by the daughters of Col. Thomas H. Helson who was another one of the distinguished sones of Terre Haute.

United States he appointed Col. Helson from Terre Haute as Minister to Chile to represent the United States of America. He held that post from 1861 to 1866 and was then appointed Minister to Mexico in 1869 resigning in 1873. It was during his tenure in Chile that his daughters, both friends of Maggie Preston wrote these latters. The first was written October 14, 1861 to Maggie by Harriet S. Welson from Santiago. She says:

frigatos, and then he amounged his recent to his various allow heleting his importal list at the sight of writches commenced a simultaneous fixing the every man of war (about twelve) in the histor, and from the forth on shore rost followed rear, and the whole attemptors was alouded with smoot.

In the sense of the day, the Happive sent us an invitation to wide the police of Patenhoif, which to wide the produce and view the epicodia converse, which play only during it presentes, which play only during it presentes, which severy possible device from actuals to the in Hult foliage with every less a crystal jet of the state to conclude the day by attaching the fine Happarer's prevate Spare. The day appointed was Sanday but the steem bunt winds was for the gueste and out it suested and said with the power of Feterical powers, in all the paraphanulis of full man search and cooked hate. The said the paraphanulis the appearance of Peterical prevailed that a cormplet of said the spherical prevailed matter the state of a said an occurred opportunity and the sexim of "In Base" others and maliantly and the sexim of "In Base" others.

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Dearest Maggie,

Execuse me for not writing to you by the last mail as I did to a great many of my friends in Terre Haute but I had not the time to write to you all at the same time. We arrived here four weeks ago and I am delighted with the beautiful city of Santiago, it is a very large place as it contains "One hundred and fifty thousands of inhabitants, and I am convinced it is the most beautiful place in this world. There are also some of the handsomest residences here I ever saw and I think they are There are also some of superior to the elegent houses in New York on Fifth Avenue. The people here are as handsome as they can be, especially the "Young Gentlemen", they all have teeth like pearls, hair as black as jet and curly and all of them have splendid forms and splendid mustaches. Some of them are light complectioned, while others are Brunettes. I am sitting by my window and writing and every Centlemen looks like a picture that passes by. The only thing I don't like about Chile is how the poor and lower classes are buried. I will try and describe to you the way in which they are buried. There are very large holes dug and when any of these poor creatures die they are thrown in like perfect beasts and without any filling and these holes are never covered up until they get filled and they are not allowed to be buried in coffins. One day Pa took us all to this Grave Yard, as we had the curiosity to go and as we were walking along we would come across bones, locks of hair, skulls and everything terrific to the human eye. Walking on a little further we came to a horrible big hole, wondering what was in it we glanced our eyes downward when to our utter astonishment we saw an infant down there dead without anything over it but a little white Gown, which doubtless had been put on by its parents. The natives here all rejoise when an infant dies as they know it has gone to a better place than this and they usually have a grand dancing party and dress the infant up in fine style and paint its cheeks and lips. I don't see how they could be so cruel but they think it is only right they should do so. After these poor people have been buried for several years they are dug up and fresh ones put in their places.

SANS SUMMERS. MINTERS AND

Mag. I experienced my first earth quake Sunday a week ago and I will tell you how it came. I felt as if some(one) was knocking on the floor as hard as they foould) and it would become greater every moment. At last the Glass commenced to jostle about and everything else in the room which would possibly did so. I was not much frightened but I can assure you the sensation is anything but a pleasant one for there is no knowing but what the earth might open and smallow us up and you know that would not be so pleasant. Next Saturday some loung Gentlemen and our family are going out an an excursion trip and we expect to be gone for several days at which time I am going to learn to ride on Horseback and I expect to have a splendid time as the Young Gents who are going are very pleasant and agreeable.

I would love to see you all so much but as wishing wont bring you to me I remain content until the expiration of the four years when I hope to see all my friends again but I suppose som

Bearons Magato,

es the cast add you pay of patches sen tot to caused I did to a great many of my friends in Terre lands but I but the time to write to you all at the size time. We arrived bere four weeks ago and I am delighted with the heautiful city of continue to te a very large place as it contains to bendered and alley thousands of inhabitants", and I am convinced it is the most prantified place in this world. There are also some of the lead series treatdences here I ever saw and I think they are superior to the elugant bouses in New York on Fifth Avenue. The people here as beacause as they can be, especially the "Young continues", they all have tests like pearly, beir as bee agent biberigs want made to ils has your has set as would eplendid municules. Some of them are light complectioned, while others are househoe. I am sitting by an etadow and messag dedd existolg a call saicel nearliged grove him agitifu Took out word at altho sweet and the root I make the poor and lower classes are burded. I will the and describe to you the way in which they are buried. There are very large bolos due and when any of these most orecharge die they are thrown in like parties beaut been and thought and these anies ort bewells for our golf has belled ber golf little ou bereves weren te be burded in colline. One day Pa vook as all to this Grave Yaxd, as we had the confosity to go and as we were waiting along we would sens agrees boses, locks of hair, skulls and everytidan terriffe to the huma eye. Maining on a little further we came to a herrible big bole, wordering what was in it we giomese our eyes dougened when to our niter astonishment we say an infent down there cond without anything over it had a little white fromweight of the part of the part of the parter. The satires hore all rejoice when un infunt dies at they know it has gone to a better place than this and they usually have a grand demoing merty and dress the infent up in time otyle and paint its cheeks and light too I don't see bow they could be se areal but they think it is may right they should do so. After these poor people have fug same deer's hom on the are they are to be but to been ones gut WATER TOTAL in their misces.

Ang. I experienced my first carth quake Jundey a week at a cart will tell you how it came. I felt as if some (one) was according on the fileor of hard as they would and it would become protein on the fileor of hard as they would become at a cart would be a cart of the olians commenced to jostle at a cast and another and integreemed but I can expure you the sendation is anything but a glessand one for there is no excepting but what the carth adget open and swallow as up and you know that would not go a carth adget open and swallow as up and you would ense act our isally see as pleased to be gone to be gone for the several days at an excursion trip and you esten to also as a carth added to make a splease to learn to also and carther than a spect to have a spleasing that as the found Cente who are

I vould love to see you down on his woy, see of evol blucy I would not be seen to the four that the country year of the each of the work were when I hope to see all my friends again but I suppose some

of you will be married and perhaps myself for all we know. I often recall the many happy hours we have spent together. I remember how much I enjoyed myself the day we spent at your house and do you remember the night you and Hell Donaldson spent with me and how much fun we had writing to some boys across the street. I remember it as well as though it were yesterday three figures, he sweet to fin threach the sir. This

cufferences are amplerful. At their first Please excuse this penmanship and all of the mistakes which you may come across. Write to me very soon and tell me about my friends in Terre Haute. Give my love to Co Donnelly, Hall Earley, Sis Turner, Hellie Donaldson, Mamie Clippinger, Carrie and Sallie, Abbie and Jemmia. Sue Potter and all the rest of friends. All of the family send a great deal of love to you and your Ma and Pa.

aplebrate the Independence of foile which was gained on the Write soon and accept much love

othy assessed a new druce, and the street From your affectionate and loving friend

erepy muse was illustrated and the " Harriet S. Nelson

P.S. We have just received the dispatch containing Jefferson Davis's Death, poor fellow but I suppose it is better he should be out of this world as he has caused so much trouble. I hope to hear from you very soon. Mary is about going crasy on the strength of poor Jeff's death and she has her lap full of nuts and says she is enting them over his funeral and heklowing hurran for Jeff for he has gone down to glory. I must close this now. and they are in mean. The last mens we led Tree home

was rigordens but I look former a with a Herr Hel. harry few that " I'm

While you write to me please address as follows:

Harriet S. Helsen, Legation of the United States, Santiago de Chile, South America

The mail has just arrived and I hope I find eletter from some of my friends, to the Thomas de Commences and of the fashionable we truing plantak to spund the samet. Expect to help aysold

The other letter is written by Col. Helson's other daughter Mary B. Helson and is dated Nov. 12, 1862 - a year after the first letter. It says in News Earts who has not Inngotten us har I have

My dearest Maggie, I believe in the ald saving Sthat out of

Your letter of the 7th of August was received on the 12th of October and I was very much delighted to see your punctuality in answering letters. I will profit by your example hereafter. I have been very much occupied since the receipt of your dear little letter and if you will write very often I will always answer punctually. I have been to many balls and parties during the last month and feel somewhat worm out. We have had plenty amusement this Spring for the Martinettes and Royal Troop have been here and played for a month and the Hanlon Lee Brothers are here now. The whole city is wild about them; balls and parties have been given to them until we are all tired and the

ired look two letters in one year from here wille in Konsticky

word or the roll bleeve engineer has bulyram od like mey to I aften room. I the man happy hours we have spent together. I remainder her much I enjoyed appeal the day we spent at your house and do you remember the state you and Bell houseldeen spent with me and how south fun we had writting to note baye new of description of the est of the section of the SUNT DAY vertestay.

Please economic this premarent and all of the mistaines shifts you may eque across, Write to me wary seem end tell no chout up friends in ferre much. Mys my lone to Co Domesily, Ball Parley, Els Torres, Neille Bonaldoon, Mente Chippinger, Carris and Sallie, Abbde and Jands. Sue Potter and all the rest of friends. All of the femily send all has all there has now or evel to theb days a

well he seem and accept much Leve

From your editionate and Leving firtuit A MINISTER STREET

the states, they are there as P.C. We have just received the dispatch containing Jeffereng biveds of relief pages I suggest I seek to better he should be ent of this verts as he has caused so much brounts. I sope to hear from you very soon. Mary to about going erest on the same to find yal and and ods has dead o'That took to describe end may sine to certag than over his tuness and heliculage sacto for let for he has your congress to glory. I must col derrund - 1845 OO FIRST Andrews on the Cold Control of the State S

Company of the state of the sta rewelle to us please address as follows: Section of gestars batter out to mottaged mealed . Submish Sentiage de Chille, South America

the most has fond existend and I maps I find alacter from some the state was the second result in the second to the second to the second to the Distributed the second of the

The other letter is written by Gol. Helson's other daughter War E. Welson and is deten Nov. 12, 1862 - a year efter the filter letter It says:

My dearest megales for the paper water consumers on downsor loss letter of the 7th of August was received on the 12th of October and I was very much deligated to see your junctuality in answorting latters. I will profit by your enample hereafter. I have been very much corupted since the receipt of your deer little letter and if you will write wary often I will always snews pusctually. I have been to many balls and parties during the last month and feel semewhat topre out. We have bed plenty even quore this fire for the Mertinettes and Royal Troop have been here and played for a nonth and the Banlon Lee Brothern are here now. The whole oldy is wild about them; halls and out has best tile ere ou libro med? of marin seed evid actives

President presented them with a very handsome gold medal apeice and the young gentlemen and ladies make them presents of magnificient bouquets and crowns of gold and silver wheat. I go every Thursday and Sunday to the Theatre to see them perform. It is the most wonderful thing I ever vitnessed to see William Hanlon go across an immense Theatre like the one here in three jumps, he seems to fly through the air. Their performances are wonderful. At their first performance four ladies fainted. All of the young ladies have nearly gone crasy about them. I like George the best and Hattie likes Alfred; William and Thomas are very much liked also, they have been here three weeks but they are going away next week to our great disappointment

In the "dies-i-ocho" or during the week that they celebrate the Independence of Chile which was gained on the 18th of September 1810 I enjoyed myself very much. The whole city assumed a new dress, and the streets were decked with flags and flowers and at night seemed but a blase of fire as every house was illuminated and the "Canada-cre" ground promonade was filled with flowers and flags and the statutes were superbly ornamentated. It will take too long to describe to you in this letter all that (took) place in that week and I will defer it until another time for I have written six letters this morning and I am obliged to have this one finished in half an hour. I am very sorry to hear that your brother was wounded and also that John Ball had shown the "white feather". My poor country, I mourn for thee. Although I am so far away from the battlefield yet I feel for the men that fall as much as you possible can who are so near. The last news we had from home was glorious but I look forwar d with a trembling heart for the news which is to some in an hour. The steamer has just arrived in Valperaiso and we will have our dispatches very soon. I only hope that none of my dear Uncles have fallen or any of my friends.

This is our second month in Spring and the weather is delightful but a little later the weather becomes very warm. We are all going to the "Banos de Caucaenes" one of the fashionable watering places to spend the summer. Expect to enjoy myself very much.

Maggie, it seems that you are the only one out of my many friends in Terre Haute who has not forgotten us for I have received but two letters in one year from there while in Kentucky I received dozens. I believe in the old saying "that out of sight, out of mind". Please give my leve to all of them and say if they wish me to recognize them when I return to the States, they had better write to me. I have but a moment more to spare and hoping that you are all well and with much love from my own family to yours, I am and shall ever be

He as die the Your affectionate friend

Mary B. Helson

P.S. We have just received the sad news of my dear Uncle William's death. We have not heard yet how it occurred, the dispatch only says that he was killed by J. C. Davis. O I shall hate that man and all connected with him from this day until the end.

night our was fall used so n bertte

Prost deat presented than the avery motion presents of and the rows graties and ladies make them presents of magnifications bosquets and crowns of gald and silver wheat. I go every Thursday and back to the Theater to see them parform. It is the most wonderful taking I ever witnessed to see William Hamler go stross an investigative like the one here in three jumps, he seems to fly through the sir. hely performances are wenderful. At their rises performance four ladies fainted. All of the years ladied have nearly gone ladies fainted. All of the years ladied and fattle likes orang energy and lightle likes orang energy and lightle likes have been more three weder they are going as and week to our disappointment.

In the "dies-4-cope" or furing the week that they celebrate the Independence of Chile which was gained on the lath of September 1810 I entoyed agraif your mach. The whole ofty answed a new drawn, and give streets were decided with on ori? to small a bud houses during it has erevold bue again every house was illiminated and the "Gameda-cres" ground presente vas filled with flowers and flags and the evalutes were superfuly ornamentaged. It will being tee long to describe I has seem that at able (not) took its water and all mor or arestel his mostly syad I to I east reasons Alson of reach filly Timi at bedeint? win that evid of beginde as I has guimon whis to best war recitored many that that your province was not mented and also that John Ball had shown the "winte factor". My poor country, I come the theory although I am so far swar from the bettleffeld at I feel for the men that fall as mich as you parcible can who are so near. The last news we had from home was clostous but I look forwar d with a troubling beart for the hevires saut and remeate and around the state and at deliver aven in Volumenton and we will have our disputches very soon. I cally hope that some of my dear Uneled have falles or any of my friends,

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langed on the seems that you are the only one out any any large large in the seem I not so that intended in the seems I not seem to the seems in the seems in one year the seems while in Mantacky I received dosens. I believe in the old saying Ethet out of the I received dosens. I place aive up love to all of them and say at the wight we to receive when i recurr to the States. If they wish we to receive to me. I have but a moment more in spain they had better with to me. I have but a moment more in spain and seem and sooter to me. I they all see with moon love from any own featly to yours I am and shall ever he

Your affections to friend

Mary B. Nelson

P.C. We have just received the eas news of my dear Unele William's death. We have not heard yet now it occurred, the dispatch only death. We have he was milled by J. C. Davis. O I shall hate that man and all commerced with him from this day until the end.

the may they noted, analy then the Yours of the section of the formal content to branch the your the formal to other the formal the content to drop up to be and there is they were the formal to the formal the

I send you a letter that Hattie wrote to you sometime since but was too late for the last mail so I will send it in mine to make assurance double sure.

organic to find an has after they and reasonable to religion thereon Also a part of the heritage of this house are many assories and been on the other plan of Labousternets. Det den Mondae mementoes of the Civil War. I want to read to you two more letters there is one thing share if we net antenhad the rebuilt written by a youth, George A. Graff to his boyhood friend William W. would have got more personners of these their to t Preston who was then living in this house. These letters have never then my there with his main bond of the Arry of is which been given any previous publicity and have never been published. They Charm toda a a 12 throw a new and intimate light on the Civil War and are interesting from seems to make another fight and in that that they Herital Lance Mil several angles to the people of Terre Haute. that they had been widgeling on every fight entil that and who mus

George A. Graff was a member of the lith Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers Company P. His first letter was written August 14, 1863, and is written from a camp near Elk Rum, Virginia. The letter is on bluish white double paper ruled with blue lines and contained in small bright yellow envelope addressed to Mr. William W. Preston, Terre Haute, Indiana, The envelope has a Washington 3¢ stemp in the right hand corner — a stemp of the series of 1861. It is cancelled with a circular stemp reciting "Washington D.C. Aug. 18", He writes:

*Frignd Williams

I received your kind letter and now I am going to try to emswer it if I can; We are incamped at what is called Elk-Ville or Elis Run, Va. There is but one brigade here with us, there was two at first but they moved day before yesterday. Where they went I know not, but in all there is one division of the 2nd Army Corps here and it is the 3rd division and it is divided off into Regts and brigades, and they are stationed on different roads, in order to keep the Cavelry from making raids in our rear on Washington junction.

ends of the montenance Hiver, Vinginia.

I see that you speak about the battle of Gettesburgh, as to it being of more importance to us than Antietam I do not think that it was for the reason that we did not attach them, but as to attacking them we did the first day and they whipped us bad, but that night our men fell back to a better position so the next day the rebels attached us on our ground and we repulsed them every time but if we had attached them on there ground, they would have whipped us shure for where they drove our men the first days fight was high ground like that at Fredricksburgh, and the reason I know that they would have whipped us and had a good position was from

I some you a lotter that intelle words to you consider that I was too late for the last mell so I will rend it in mine to make apsurance deable sure."

has solven year our sauch sids he epartred out he frag a cala emotion of the Mivil and I want to wond to you be not never written by a youth, George A. Graff to his Sophood friend William W. Preston who was then living in this bears. These peters have never been given any previous publicates and have never been sublished, They throw a new and intimete light on the Civil dar and are interesting from several cargios to sive service iterre liarte.

essibel eds to seemiged dial eds to recome a man them at opposit Voluntaers Company F. Ille Mret labter was written inquet 14, 1863, and is written from a comp poor ilk dam. Virginia. The letter is on bluish white duable more raised with blue lives and contained in manil bright rellar envelope addressed to Mr. William V. Freston, Terre Mante, Indiana, quests a --- Teston boad sight out at quate a notquideal a sad equivos off of the sories of 1861. It is cancelled with a circular stamp reciting ed market the control of denie Pashington 5.0, Aug. 181, He welkest

and discould not be the first and the second of and and the

Triend Williams on a state of the contract of var of galog me I won bas meddel bath mov beviewer I offix-off believed to seem the are incomped at what is could believe the or Elle lung ve. There is but one brigade here with us, there was two at three but they moved day before yeaterday. Whare they went I luce act, but in all there is one division of the Sad Aray Corps has adjest out the boddwib at it has actaived but and at it has even brigades, and they are stationed on diffurent roads, in order to keep the Cavelry from making raids in our rear on Vashington junction,

I see that yes speak slout the battle of Cetterburgh, as to it boing of more importance to use then hatistan I do not taink that it was for the reason that we did not attach them, but as to ettecking them we did the first day and they wilipped us bad, but that adght our mes fell back to a better position so the next day weve sedd besiseer ou bus hounts was no au hedeade aleder edd time but if we had attached time on there ground, they would have whipped as stare for where they drove our men the firet days fight were high ground like that at Fredricksburgh, and the reason I know north was notitied book a bad bas out bequire even black void tonic

the way they acted, every time they would make an attempt to break our lines and get repulsed they would fall back some distance in order to draw us out and then if they get us out they intended to fall back to there picked ground, but all we tried to do was hold our lines.

And there was another way that I new that they had picked ground to fight on was after they had commenced to retreat there Infantry and all of there Artillery fell back on high rising ground just on the other side of Gattesburgh. But Gen. Meade stated in the papers that the rebels had to fight him on his own ground, but there is one thing shure if we had attached the rebels and had whipped them on there own ground as bad as we did on ours, we would have got more prisoners of them than we did; so you can see that it was not Gen. Meade's intention to attach thee or follow them up there with his main band of the Army or he would have done it, and another think if he had the rebels would have drawn up there men as if they was going to fight on that ground and then we would have had to lay there perhaps two days longer to get things ready to make another fight and by that time they would have got there road clear, and so it was better the way it was, and not only that they had been whipping us every fight until that and you can see for yourself that it was better to let them come to us than for us to go to them at that time.

William you want to know if I see Nat Eddy you say that belongs to Stevarts old Cavelry. (Thave not).

William how does the Conscription act go on ther now. Nothing more at present but I remain your friend ever more.

Resited Station four of flow offer the

George A. Graff

William I don't believe I told you in my other letter that I saw Doctor Read at Williams-Port, N. D. I did and asked him about John the doctor said that Johnney was in the army down in Ky."

arched toy Conterville which was the 12th. The night of the 18th

Written from a Camp South of Emppahannock River, Virginia. The letter is on bluish white paper ruled with blue lines — the paper a large double sheet. It is in a small bright yellow envelope addressed to Mr., William W. Preston, Terre Haute, Indians. It has a Washington 36 stamp in right hand corner, of the series of 1861. The cancellation stamp recites "Washington, D.A.R. November 15th", and has stamped on envelope "Advertised".

It reads: a said tries of clience by with they contain that do

"Friend William" a street give the bearing to lead and file every

I expect you have begin to think I have give up writing to you any more; I would have wrote long age but I had

so ther trial emiliar which was so plant this we

Mee're car they are the they want along the care and are a care and a rest the care and a rest and our lines and get repulsed they would fall had sent one distance in of believent yeld dies are dea yeld it need bas due as well of nebro fell back to there picked ground, but all we tried to do was held come of each on o'l home like I be the come with you are present man

basinly bad your fact wen I had you radious as wread had ered tastier of becommon bad yeds red's saw no digit of boson interpolated in the special section of the control of the property of the prop just on the other side of Gettesburgh. But Gen. Kesde stated in ted chaptry men aid no said sight as had aloder out tests awayed not bad has alader and bedestte bad ow'll crimis anist one at eredt wilpool there ours ground as bad as institut on core, we would have got more prisoners of them than we did; so you oun see that it was not dem. Medde a intention to other time or follow . them up there with his main band of the Army or he would have done qu reart ered blues eleder out bad od 11 golds readens the ct there wen as if they was going to fight on that ground and then we would have ned to lay there perhaps two days longer to get things ready to make another fight and by that that they would have go time for her, and to the the the way it was, and not bully that they had been whipping us every flight until that and you can nes for yourself that it was better to let then come to me that them for smit task is most of on of an

failf was now will say had eas I it would be fund now mailing belonge to Stewarts old Cavelry. (Mere act). Children on the warmer will

William how does the Consoription set go on ther now. Nething more at present and I result your friend ever more.

Committee of the second second

William I den't believe I teld you in my other leater that I mail!! Doctor Read at Williams-Port, M. W. I did and asked him avout doing the doctor setd that Johnsoy was in the army down in Ky. a **新教育的基础的**。

his next letter is dated Tuesday, Novoquer 12, 1863 and is

witten from a Courp South of Reppahennook River, Virginia. The letter

to on bluish white paper ruled with bine lines - the paper a large of

Coulds sheet. It is in a small bright relies envelope addresses to

Mr., Villiam V. Freston, Terre Henne, Indiana. It has a Washington 30

Steam in right hand corner, of the series of 1861. The cancellation

stemp resites westington, D. t. H. Hovember liting, and has stamped on .. are the state of the state of the state of the state of

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A STATE OF THE STA Teast I depend you have begin to tidek I have give up vasility basis bed I and eas good afors ered blood I tenes and not of salitate

now stamps, but I will try to commence a letter to you if I don't mannage to finish it. For the last two or three days I have that diareah and now it has turned into the fever, and I just feel bad and well enough to try to write a few lines or do something to pass away time.

Villiam I would like to have got to stay at New York for about two or three weeks more and I think I would have saw my funn out but the way it was I did not; but perhaps I will get back there again if I do I warent you I see my funn out. If I had stayed there three more days I would have seen one of the bouliest times ever I saw in my life I do believe for the reason I found out some young ladies in Villiamsburgh that I used to know at Terre Haute I would tell you there names but you would not now them anyway, some way I had and saw all my funn in the last three days.

I would tell you more about New York but it wont do to tell you all in one or two letters, for the reason I write to long a letter any way every time to your short ones. I would write more but I want to say a few words about our March from Culpepper C. H. to Centerville.

I will now try to write you as near as possible about our retreat from Robertson run to Centerville. I will commence back at Saturday Oct. 9th/63 at which I was on picket we got orders or at least the officers did to draw in the pickets of which we did not understand at first until we went to where the brig was and then we found out that the Jonothens was on the move to and trying to out flank us. The same night we evacuated our position at or near Culpepper C. H. and fell back towhat is called Bealton Station four or five miles the other side of the Rappahannock. We stayed there until about noon on the 11th of Oct at which time we marched back across the R. and formed into line of battle and advanced three or four miles but not getting any fight out of the enemy or finding him in any force we recross the river the third or fourt time and marched for Centerville which was the 12th. The night of the 12th we was surrounded although we went to bed about ten or eleven celeck in the night, and then had to get up about three again in the morning and march on and all at once we came to a halt long enough to get breakfast, but did not now or understand sutch movements till the first thing boom, boom. then we new that the Jonothens was trying to get cur wagon train. Our caverly was fighting like the very devil just in front of us, so our regt was deployed out as skirmirishirs in order to support the Cavelry if the Jonnothons should advance in force but they did not come, so we relied and formed the regt and fell back about a half miles we done so twice and both times had to wade a stream about knee deep. We was the rear guard of the infantry on that road, but at least we got back to within about three or four miles of Bealton Station at which place the rebels and our men were having it up and down with cannon, so we marched up within about a mile and a half of Besiton Station and formed into line of battle behind the R. R. weiting for Jonnothon. Our men placed a battery in position and the rebels tried to silence it but they could not do it from that place so they tried another which was so clost that we could hear the rebel officer give the command to load and fire every time although the rebels shot several shots at our battery but ours got range of theirs at last and knocked one of their pieces and over

now steamy, but I will to common a standard in it deal't mannenge to finden is. For the last tempor tarme days I have that therein and I have that distrement and one in temporal and I have lead to the the the last these or in something to year many the

William I make the bear state of the bare of the forth for about the or three weeks and I think I would have pay my form out but the tast it was I did not; but the I will get book there equin if I do I waver ou I see my from out. If I had stayed there three more days I would have even one of the bouldest these ever I saw in make I do bolisse ou the reason I found out some prime that is will tensitually that I would not never have I would tell you there make but you would not now then anyway, some or I had and say all if

I would tell you more now low You'd but it wont do
to tell you ell in one or bus letters, he the reason I wilto to
long a serie only way every time to your score ones. I sould
write many but I want to a selen words about our March from
Calpapper C. H. to Conterville.

I will new tay to unite year on mean of year on pensions about our retreat from Rebertson run to Conterville, I will commence buels at Satisfay Cot. This et which I was on pletet we got to study and at worth of the armolillo and Jamel Ja we are not witch we did not understand at first entil we went to where the brig was and then we found out that the Jonothers was on the save we and trying to out flank up. The same night se oversteed our position at or near fulpapper C. H. and Fell been towner in called Bealten Station four or five miles the other dide of the Reppensancek. We stayed there entil about moon on the lith of Oct at which time we decreased back sorose the R. and formed take the battle and seveneed to years out to the first and getting any fight out of the energy or Sinding him in any force we recrose the river the third on fours time and marched for Conterville wideh was the 12th. The night of the 12th ve was sugremeded although we went to bed shout tess or eleven collect galaron edd at alega eard toods up to got had ment has the again of sed acres on and all at once we came to a half long enough to get breakfast, but did not now or understand subch appropriate till the first thing been, book, then we new that the Jenothens was trying to get our yagen train. Our carerly was fighting like the very devil dust to from of us, so our regular designad out as strairlantre is exter to support the Cavelry if the Jonnothems should advence in force but they did not come, so we relied and formed the regt and fell back about a half miles we done so twice and both times bad to wade a street about tone doep. We was the reer guard of the infentry on that read, but at least we got back to within signit three or four ever see two has sleder add spain without a motivate and less to selle beving it up and down with cancon, so we marched up within about a alle and a half of Realten Station and formed into line of bettle bolind the R. H. weiting for Jonnothon. Our cam placed a battery in position and the rebels tried to silence it but they could not do it from that place so they tried another which was so clost that we could hear the tobel officer give the semend to load and fire every time although the repets about several about the out deposit outs got range of theirs at last and knocked one of their places and over

end at that the rebels stopped, but while the firing was going on we could hear our shots tearing the trees down at a fearful rate. At one time the Capt. of our battery made a tolerable good shot which made the trees fall, and he holered take that over there. I thought I had saw men take things cool but I never saw men take it cooler then they did their, for it seemed as if they did not care at all, just so that they kept the rebels from out flanking us although that was twice we had been out off and then we was surrounded on all sides except one and that was where our advance had out there way through and in se doing they took some cannon and several hundred prisoners. I thought I had been in tight places but that is what I call running the Cantilit, and then we did not get the chance of firing a shot, but was just on the point of doing it once or twice, at this time the rebels was about six or eight deep in front and three officers there urging them on and telling them that there was nothing but a wagon train and guards, and saying now boys give the yell and then charge and all is ours, there was but one man yelled and another said I now better for I saw twenty thousand men pass there, but they did not come and as soon as dark we erept out of that as easy as possible through mad and water to our waists to Centerville next morning after three or feur hours sleep we was drawen up into line of battle for the rebels but they did not come in any force only to skirmish a little which they done all day till night when the rebels was gone then our regt with the 6th Ohio had to wade brawd run which reached nearly to our cartridges boxes after advancing about one mile we come back; the next morning we marched for Warrenton stayed there two or three weeks and then marched to this place which soots me very well for the present.

I understand since Les Prater has come back that C.R.Carr one of my old school mates is bossing a big job on some of the a streets in Terre Haute, allowed to disappear, although the ghost of

As I have written a longer letter than I intended to I will stop for this time now more at present.

presented.

the charitaes part of our consentty and our country. Let us hope is now to George A. Graff 14th regt. Ind. Vols Company F Via Washington, D.C.

These are only a few of the treasures contained in this fabulous old house.

Throughout the house, now, are articles of furniture, glassware, pictures, books and other articles representing every period of its occurrency back to its beginning. The rooms are so large that these massive solid walnut and cherry bookcases, dressers, tables and other articles do not seem as large as they really are. In the downstairs pantry, is a large solid cherry storage bin about six feet long with four

on no anter our animit out althe and abeques aloder out fault to be the nature former of a second second and an entered and a second and a one time the Capt. of our bettery made a tolexade good shet which diguede I . ound reeve dade exet boweled on ann . Let warry and the releas the third tent I never but I see the the the tent were the seed or they did their, i'm is search as it they did not seen at all, and so that they kept the remain from out Camiring on although that was the one bade one and the we see we counted an all sides except one and that was warre our advance had out there my through erence they bear they teek some summer and invested interest or authory IIno I being at each bud seemin built of seed had I be water I Jude a rate of the contain and Jee the commit one of Little of but that just on the point of deing it once or twice, at this time eresid executive sound has doord at queb tobbe us ate dupos and alleger and negate a test anisted new event that there were nothing but a vegen resin and mards, and earling now have give the rell and then charge I bies redient has believ mas ent the ore orest error el lie and now jectem for I am transfer themend now much there, but they did eldisuog us yese us that to the every or frab as from as bas and the the maintain such alliverston to adular top of margin bus have described tor of frer bears also we was drawed up late line of battle for the rebels but they did not come in any force only to sidentials a little which they done all day till night when the rebels was gone these our rough with the 8th Ohio had to made must rem without reached ow ells son frods salesaves were send sage tree of virses some besit the next nexuing se sarched for Warrontes trayed there the or three make and then parened to this place which soots me warp wall der the process of the state of the state of the state of the state of

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George L. Graff
Lith regt. Ind. Vols
Wishington, B.C.

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Throughout the house, now, are articles of furniture, glasseers, statures, been and other articles representing every period of the currency back to its beginning. The rooms are so large that these washes solid valuet and chours besides, dressers, tables and other articles to med one is they really are. In the dorsetairs at they are been bin about the feet leng with fewr

of fine old pewter and there are cabinets filled with old china and glass.

Old lamps - originally burning lard oil - dot the house. Candle snuffers

lie around as if just used last night. On a beautiful rich black walnut

drop leaf table in the hall there stands an alabaster bowl decorated with

carved figures. A most unusual tall book case is in the entrance hall.

It reaches nearly to the ceiling of this overly tall room, the lower part

being a chest, the top drawer of which hangs over the lower drawers and

is supported by separate legs of its own.

The changes made by the Prestons to the house of Major Devees have not been such that they interfere at all with the historic original.

The old plantation has long since been subdivided into lots and numerous houses now occupy the greater portion of the land. About the house as it now is, there is a yard 125 feet by 434 feet — sufficient for a small park.

Landmarks of the past are fast disappearing from our scene. This is one which should not be allowed to disappear. Although the ghost of Matilda Devees may watch over this house, it is a significant landmark of the glerious past of our community and our country. Let us hope it can be preserved.

minerals for whether and there are methods filled with old culus and place.

Have all positive and there are methods filled with old culus and place.

Large - originally burning land oil - dot the bours. ("endise environment around as it just need last might. On a besutiful rich block unlaws place table that the hall there stands as alaborated book other oil it is the emtrance hall.

Jose the mail the colling of this over is in the emtrance hall.

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The deal and the ting interfers to the house of Major Newses to the bear such that they interfers at all with the historie original, all limited as hee long tines been subdivided into lots and manarous and the sew south the forether continued the long and the house as it is seen to a paid its fact or it feet or all less the meal and

continued the past are fast disappearing from our scene. Take one width should not be allowed to disappear, Although the ghost of the community over this house, it is a edgnificant landmark of a cierious past of our community and our sountry. Let us hope it can be

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Story of 124-Year-Old House Told To D. A. R. Chapter by John G. Biel

told members of Fort Harrison niece, Elizabeth Patterson, and a Chapter, Daughters of the Ameri-sister, Ann Potts, of Schulkillcan Revolution, the story of a 124- haven, Pa. The estate was not year-old house at the garden party meeting of the chapter held yesterhome of Mrs. F. V. Smith, 1339
Poplar Street. "The Story of a House," as fold by Mr. Play where the party was held.

Mrs. Ernest O. Nay, regent, pre- in the bank. Mr. Biel. Following the meeting, refreshments were served with the following members as hostesses: Mrs. Seymour Anderson, chairman; Mrs. Jerome Courtney, Miss Florence Crawford, Miss Mary Lou Dugger, Mrs. George Eck, Mrs. Albert Faurot, Mrs. Julian Goss, Mrs. A. R. Markle, Mrs. Charles Paddock, Mrs. W. Robert Paige, Mrs. George Patton, Mrs. Albert Pfan and Mrs. Dick Whitesell.

Mr. Biel told how the land on which the house was built was purchased on Sept. 13, 1816, just five years after Gen. William Henry Harrison reached the Wea Village. where Terre Haute now stands, and built the famous Fort Harrison The land was bought for \$1.82 an acre by William Harlow and then sold to George W. Dewees, who obtained a patent from the United States for the land on Sept. 22, 1823. The house is historically significant to Terre Haute and Vigo County, according to Mr. Biel, as it marks, definitely, the beginning of the real building and development of the

There were only about 50 houses, including 15 business houses, in the town when the house was started by Dewees in 1823. It was completed in 1826, during which time the town grew and changed. However, the house was a mansion when it was built in the backwoods of the city as the stone for the house was brought by ox cart from a stone quarry owned by Mr. Dewees and believed to be around Turkey Run or Mudlavia. The land at that time took in the territory now bounded by Thirteenth Street on the west, Twentieth Street on the east, Poplar Street on the north and College Avenue on the south. The barn stood on the spot now occupied by St. Patrick's Church.

The unusual construction of the house was told by Mr. Biel as well as the sturdy construction of walls 18 inches thick and growing much wider as they reach the ground. rock foundation seven feet from the walls, floors of black walnut boards tongue and grooved and fitting today as tight and flat as if just laid. rafters and joists of hand-hewn wood put together with wooden pegs and original Adam mantels throughout.

After the death of the Desees son, who was scalped by Indians; the death of Major Desees Nov. 29. 1834, and the disappearance of his

olf G. Biel as guest speaker wife, the property passed on to a settled until 1841, during those seven years the property having Poplar Street. "The Story of a then president of the Terre Haute House," as told by Mr. Biel, was the history of the old Preston house in 1841 to Nathaniel Preston, cashier

Nathaniel Preston came to Terre sided at the meeting and introduced Haute from Vermont and was one of the first teachers at the old brick school. He and his wife lived there the remainder of their lives and reared their family there. Later Margaret Preston and brother lived there until their deaths, at which time it was inherited by Mrs. Natalie Preston Smith, who' lives there now.

Mr. Biel concluded his talk with excerpts from interesting letters and mementoes of the Civil War. which are valuable historically, and of descriptions of other interesting articles representing every period of its occupancy which are still in

the house. He said:

"It is the story of a house which is rich in tradition and steeped with the history of this city. It is the story of a house which under absolutely no circumstanuces should be lost to the generations of peo-ple of Terre Haute to come. This house is the one and only remaining link which ties today with the period of Terre Haute's growth which it represents and it is most certainly a duty and obligation on the residents of this city and county to do something to preserve this house for posterity. It should be in the custody of some organization such as the D. A. R. or the Vigo County Historical Society, as a sacred trust, to preserve it intact and as it is. Over 124 years have passed since the construction of this house was started and it has withstood time and weather for only one purpose-to link today with yesterday."